



**City of Torrington
Housing Plan Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes – AMENDED
March 22, 2022**

Present: Jocelyn Ayer, Planning Consultant (title amended)
Sharon Waagner, former Torrington City Councilor (title amended)
Claudia Sweeney, Director, Torrington Housing Authority
Starley Arias, Torrington Planning and Zoning Commissioner
Jeremy Leifert, Torrington City Planner

Jocelyn Ayer called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom on line.

Ms. Ayer noted an amendment to be made to the January 25, 2022 minutes, page 2 paragraph 1, Regarding comments received on the survey surrounding property taxes, this Committee will not be addressing property taxes in their plans.

MOTION by Ms. Waagner to amend the 1/25/22 minutes, seconded by Ms. Sweeney, unanimously carried.

1) Debrief on the March 9th City Informational Meeting on the Housing Plan

Ms. Waagner noted there were not as many people attending the March 9, 2022 meeting as planned. 50 people registered on line, and 21 people were on-line.

Ms. Waagner noted one person did not attend the meeting, but did express to her they appreciated the opportunity to fill out the survey.

2) Discuss possible goals and strategies to meet housing needs identified in survey results and housing data analysis

Ms. Ayer stated the goal today is to look through their ideas, and add other ideas from Committee members.

3) Check in on resident and worker housing needs survey results

Ms. Ayer noted only seven responses were received regarding the worker housing needs.

4) Check in on technical assistance grant budget

The Committee discussed housing data analysis.

Mr. Leifert noted there are many vacant units in Torrington owned by out of town landlords. Our building official will be on board hopefully soon full time to address these issues. Ms. Waagner state the City Council fully supports blight enforcement, and she noted Blight Official Ashley Clement did an excellent job on a house in her neighborhood, which has now been cleaned up.

Ms. Ayer noted nine percent of the housing stock is vacant.

Mr. Leifert briefly reviewed the enforcement process, and hopefully effective July 1, 2022 Ashley Clement will be on board full time in the Land Use Office.

Ms. Ayer reviewed a list of possible goals and strategies, investment in Torrington's existing buildings, with Committee member input. She also addressed first time home buyer options.

Ms. Ayer and Mr. Arias discussed directing residents who are in danger of becoming homeless to existing resources.

Slaiby Village was discussed, Ms. Sweeney is in the middle of the funding process with CHFA.

Mr. Leifert stated the accessory apartment regulations have been revised to match the new State statutes, going into effect November 21, 2021.

Ms. Sweeney reviewed how all public housing will be repositioned so that it will no longer be considered public housing, and HUD is encouraging this, housing based Section 8. Details were provided by Ms. Sweeney, and this will be great for the tenants, as no one is going to lose their home and rent will still be based on 30 percent of income. Other housing authorities have been very successful with this repositioning.

5) Next meeting date (April 26th at 4pm)

- Discuss structure/outline for draft Housing Plan and timeline

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.