

City of Torrington
Housing Plan Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2022

Present: Jocelyn Ayer, Community and Economic Development Director
Northwest Connecticut Council of Governments (NWCOC)
Jeremy Leifert, Torrington City Planner
Claudia Sweeney, Director, Torrington Housing Authority
Sharon Waagner, Torrington City Councilor

Not Present: Starley Arias, Torrington Planning and Zoning Commissioner

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

MOTION by J. Leifert to add an item to agenda by 2/3rds vote:

Minutes for approval: October 26, 2021, November 15, 2021 and December 14, 2021,
Motion seconded by C. Sweeney.

MOTION by J. Leifert to approve the October 26, 2021, November 15, 2021 and December 14, 2021
Minutes, seconded by C. Sweeney, unanimously carried.

- 1) Plan for March 9th city informational forum on the Housing Plan
 - Review draft presentation slides
 - Discuss how best to invite residents to attend the meeting

J. Leifert confirmed Mayor Carbone will welcome and do the introduction to the March 9, 2022 Housing Plan Forum.

J. Ayer reviewed the slides that will be presented during the March 9, 2022 Forum. Discussion ensued, with Committee members making a few changes. The word “affordable” and its impact was discussed, and the need for a better understanding of affordable housing, its definition, and the need for education on this issue. J. Leifert noted the word affordable is used in the statute. Order of presentation of slides was discussed.

- 2) Review Housing Needs Survey results to date
 - Resident survey
 - Worker survey

J. Ayer stated 502 responses were received for the housing questionnaire survey. J. Leifert stated a handful of paper surveys are at the library, which he will pick up.

J. Ayer noted only five responses were received from people who worked, and not lived, in Torrington. She has reached out again today to Rista Malanca, JoAnn Ryan and Brian Mattiello at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. There are not enough responses to review or consider.

Committee members continued review of presentation slides, including numbers of affordable housing units available.

3) Discuss initial housing needs identified so far in survey results and housing data analysis

S. Waagner reviewed her findings and thoughts on housing, including rentals, for the artists being attracted to Torrington, young families and senior citizens.

C. Sweeney reviewed her needs for apartments, there are very few apartments available for rent, perhaps due to the expiring moratorium on rental evictions. A huge issue and concern is renter's lack of a security deposit to obtain an apartment. C. Sweeney confirmed these comments were presented on the survey results.

4) Next steps and next meeting date (March 22nd at 4pm)

- For next meeting: Discuss possible goals and strategies to meet identified housing needs; review outcomes from informational forum

J. Ayer will send Committee members the flyer, ways to promote the upcoming forum, final slides and inventory list.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.