

Waterbury Housing Task Force Meeting

Thursday, August 17th, 2023 | 6:00-8:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting: Steele Community Room (28 N. Main St.) and on Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Chris Balzano, Alyssa Johnson, Joe Camaratta, Mark Pomilio Jr., Madeleine Young, Kati Gallagher, and Kane Sweeney

Called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Review agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Review and approve minutes from the 07/20/2023 task force meeting

The Members of the Task Force reviewed and approved the minutes from the July 20, 2023 Meeting. **Kane Sweeney** made a motion to accept the minutes and **Kati Gallagher** seconded the motion, none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Relevant Task Force Updates

The Planning Commission is still working on the Bylaws update and continuing to work on the public outreach of receiving feedback on the draft of the bylaws. There is still a variety of people displaced in Waterbury but it is a smaller number for Waterbury than other affected areas. This seems to be the same as was given during the last update. Mark gave an update on the Waterbury Relief Fund, they have met as a steering committee and are working on finalizing a strategy on accepting entities that need funds. The fund is currently open and accepting donations.

Update on on-going initiatives

Joe handed out an article from Main Street America on how to put together a housing market study. He proposed a goal

- Housing Data
 - Madeleine gave an update on the work that their group has been working on by explaining the provided worksheet. Mark will contact Monica Callan to get information on the number of houses sold (~past 5 years).
- Opportunity Inventory
 - Joe gave an update on the work that their group has been working on by explaining the provided worksheet. The group is still figuring out how this data can be used to solve our questions. The group talked about other ways to use this inventory spreadsheet to find answers to our questions about vacancy, redevelopment, conversion of commercial and residential, and mix uses opportunities.
- Webpage for Waterbury residents on housing resources

- **Kati Gallagher** made a motion for the group to look into incentives for developers on creating long term housing units **Kane Sweeney** seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed.

Study Hall

The Opportunity Inventory group did work on finding what was necessary out of the grand list to answer the group questions on vacancies. This group decided to focus on identifying vacant parcels and building and or commercial spaces that could be converted to housing units. The Housing Data group added census data to their spreadsheet. The Resources Webpage group worked on creating that webpage starting with a Google Doc to store all of the information.

Review of action items and topics for next meeting

We agreed that we would try to identify 3 - 5 opportunities by the end of this year, so that we can start discussions with developers in early 2024.

The group will have another Study Hall session during the next meeting.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Kane Sweeney** and seconded by **Madeleine Young**, none opposed. It passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm