

Town of Burlington
Housing Plan Steering Committee

February 15, 2022
7:00pm
Meeting held via Zoom

ATTENDED BY: Don Riley, Stephen Grund, John Haviland, Mohamed Amer, Donna Mullen, J.P. Parente, Belinda Cargill, and Doug Thompson.
Planning Consultant in attendance: Jocelyn Ayer.

MINUTES:

The Committee members introduced themselves and how long they have lived in Burlington. Then Ayer outlined the purpose of a housing plan, typical table of contents for a housing plan, what the planning process can look like and what the role of the Steering Committee will be. Ayer showed slides to explain these topics which are attached here for reference.

Ayer described a short 10 minute video that was created that shows what affordable housing looks like in 5 small towns in our region and asked committee members to please review the video which can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh44leURLds&t=4s>

The slides Ayer presented (attached here) also define “affordable housing”, show how much of this type of housing Burlington has now and review a few other data points around median home sales prices and access to first time homebuyers.

In terms of next steps with the Housing Plan process, Ayer noted that many of the towns she has worked with have conducted resident housing needs surveys. She had sent example survey questions to the committee prior to the meeting for their review. Many committee members expressed that they liked these questions. Stephen asked whether a question could be added along the lines of, “do the taxes on your house influence whether you will continue to reside in Burlington?” “Do you feel taxes are a deterrent or barrier to families moving to Burlington?”. Ayer will draft a question to try to address this issue and will send the Burlington version of the survey back out to the committee to test prior to the next meeting.

Doug asked about administrative procedures. It was confirmed that Jocelyn will send agendas to Linne in the Selectmen’s office to post 48 hours in advance of each meeting. Donna volunteered to take minutes at future meetings, and she will send them to Linne as well once she has them ready. The committee discussed whether they needed a chairman at this time and decided they did not but that committee members will take turns reporting progress to the Board of Selectmen and others as needed.

Finally, the committee discussed setting a regular meeting date and time for monthly meetings going forward and decided on the 1st Tuesdays of the month at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.