



Housing Plan Implementation Committee

Date: September 19, 2019
Time: 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Senior Center, Main Floor

Minutes

Present: Lourie August, Jonathan Nyberg, Jenny Raitt, Syrl Silberman, Patricia Worden, Erin Zwirko.

Absent: Pam Hallett, Karen Kelleher.

Prior to the start of the meeting, it was noted that there was not a quorum of members. The Committee continued to meet without the quorum, and no votes were taken on any business. Erin and Jenny also noted that the Committee received two resignations in the past couple of days.

The first item on the agenda was to review the Committee's work plan prepared for the upcoming year. The members in attendance thought the work plan was fine. Erin indicated that she would be in touch with the Council on Aging and send around the results from the Age Friendly Survey. Additionally, the Committee noted that some more detail needs to be worked out on how the Committee weighs in on the informal trust, but Jon indicated his interest in participating.

The members discussed the benefits of a real estate transfer fee proposal under consideration by the state legislature currently. Patricia noted that it would be natural for the Committee to support the pending legislation. Syrl was inclined to support it as well, particularly with the proposed exemptions. Jon noted that it would be important to understand the types of sales that would trigger the fee. The members discussed the triggers that are written into the pending legislation. The members present would be interested in taking a vote at a later date to support the legislation.

Jenny noted that, as written, Arlington would not be able to adopt locally because the Town does not have a Municipal Affordable Trust Fund. Patricia explained that a Warrant Article to adopt a trust fund was voted down by Town Meeting in 2008, but there may be a change in attitude now over a decade later. At the time, Town Meeting expressed concern about the She thought that affordable housing was more of commonly known term now.

The Committee thought that a new article submitted to Annual Town Meeting to establish a trust fund would be beneficial. Conversations would need to happen with the Finance Committee and the Select Board to proceed.

Erin indicated that she would look up the hearing schedule for the real estate transfer fee and circulate it to the Committee.

The members discussed the minutes from May 30, 2019. Patricia requested some clarifying edits. The members did not vote to approve the minutes since there was no quorum present, but allowed Erin to post the minutes as draft to the website. A formal vote was deferred to the next meeting.

The Working Group will meet next on October 16, 2019 at 7 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.