



Housing Plan Implementation Committee

Date: October 16, 2019

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Senior Center, Mural Room, 27 Maple Street, Arlington

Minutes

Present: Lourie August, Pam Hallett, Jonathan Nyberg, Jenny Raitt, Patricia Worden.

Absent: Karen Kelleher, Erin Zwirko.

The Committee discussed the possibility of advancing a municipal affordable housing trust fund to Town Meeting in 2020. The Committee would like to discuss this possibility with both the Select Board and the Finance Committee. The Committee would also like for Town Counsel to attend the next meeting to discuss the necessary legislation and how it might operate in Arlington.

As discussed at previous meetings, the Committee expressed interest in the real estate transfer fee bill. The Committee believes it would be important for the thresholds where the transfer fee would be required and an appropriate percentage of the sales price as it might cause home prices to increase to cover the transfer fee. Jenny provided a comparison of the different housing-related revenue measures currently under consideration by the Massachusetts legislature. There are three home rule petitions from Boston, Nantucket, and Somerville to allow transfer fees, two different bills to create a local option allowing cities and towns to opt into adopting transfer fees, and one pending bill to increase deeds fees to fund affordable housing. Since the Committee has expressed support for real estate transfer fee in past meetings, Pam agreed to draft a resolution that could be brought to Town Meeting.

Jenny provided an update on the Age Friendly planning process underway by the Council on Aging. Susan Carp, the Council on Aging director, had reported that the hand written surveys need to be tabulated with the online surveys, so there is no report on the survey results yet. Additionally, an Age Friendly Coalition would be forming in the near year to guide the planning process. Jonathan volunteered to be on the Coalition, but was curious about the Coalition's charge. It is also likely that Erin Zwirko would be involved with the Coalition. Jenny stated that she would connect Jonathan with Susan regarding his interest in joining the Coalition.

The members discussed the minutes from May 30 and September 19, 2019. The members voted to approve the minutes.

The Working Group will meet next on November 20, 2019 at 7 PM. (Editor's note: This meeting was subsequently rescheduled for November 13 at 7 PM.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.