

Cornwall Affordable Housing Committee Introductory Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2021

4:00 pm

Members attending:

Jill Cutler
Janet Carlson
Marina Kotchoubey
Heather Dinneen
Margaret Cooley
Anna Timmel
Will Evans
Gordon Ridgway
Janell Mullen (planning consultant)



The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Janell Mullen, planning consultant, to the Cornwall Affordable Housing Committee. Each member gave a brief introduction and stated what other organizations or Commissions they are representing as a member of the Committee. Mullen provided a brief introduction to the legislation (8-30j) that requires that every municipality in the state adopt an Affordable Housing Plan, to be updated every five(5) years. *The meeting was disrupted for several minutes by various "Zoombombers" before brought back under control.*

Mullen continued by reviewing the slides she had prepared for the meeting. She referenced the [State Guidelines](#), which suggests what a Housing Plan should contain. They may include an overview of the following:

- Existing Affordable Housing
- Plan of Conservation & Development
- & other housing related studies

Mullen mentioned communicating with the Department of Housing (DOH) regarding the suggested content of the housing plans. The lead planner of DOH had acknowledged that not all strategies for housing (for example accessory apartments) will count towards the state definition of affordable housing. Mullen reviewed the state definition of affordable housing. Cooley offered the strategy for "attainable housing" by the Cornwall Housing Corporation. Mullen reviewed what the state has on record for Cornwall's Affordable Housing, which is approximately 3% of all housing stock. This can be located on the [Affordable Housing Appeals List](#).

Mullen reviewed the Plan of Conservation and Development's housing goals. Provided that it was just adopted in 2020, she suggested that would be a good place for the working group to start.

Meeting Schedule

Mullen suggested that the working group meet once a month for approximately nine (9) months to develop a housing plan. The next meeting will be on February 22, 2021 at 4:00 pm. The second meeting will involve a data assessment which will provide a basis for the housing needs within the town. The NHCOCG has posted all meeting information and additional resources onto the following site: <https://northwesthillscog.org/cornwall-housing-plan/>. The meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted in draft form by Janell Mullen, to be reviewed on 2/21 by the Committee.