

Cornwall Affordable Housing Committee Meeting #3 Minutes

March 22, 2021

4:00 pm

Members attending:

Jill Cutler

Ingrid Ellen

Janet Carlson

Heather Dinneen

Margaret Cooley

Anna Timmel

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. Mullen suggested adding two items to the agenda: 1. communication policy in particular when the committee listens to public comment as well as 2. the election of a chair of the committee.

Member Timmel moved the motion, Cooley seconded it. All members of the committee voted to add those item to the agenda. Mullen stated that the Chair would not need to be chosen at the present meeting, but it would be helpful if someone notifies the First Selectmen if they would like to serve. Mullen added as planning consultant her sole objective is to satisfy the requirement of the state (8-30j) despite what some local reporting/commentary was falsely stating.

Mullen continued by asking if any member of the committee had questions about the slides that she had presented at the last meeting, which contained demographic information, existing housing stock in Cornwall, and existing affordable housing.

Member Ellen asked about the exact count that the state had regarding affordable housing units. Mullen stated that she would ask her contact at DOH to best explain the current count as well as the terms (if the affordability is to expire).

Mullen also presented data obtained from the Town regarding valuation of recent building permits and the building data of new units. On average about one (1) unit of single family housing has been built per year and about one accessory apartment unit has been built per year.

The final slide contained information about the current Zoning Regulations in relation to permitting housing other than single-family dwellings.

There was a public comment period. For next meeting, a chair would be appointed and a communication policy would be reviewed. Also, an upcoming forum on housing will likely be scheduled for May 24th.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26th at 4:00 pm.

The meeting materials in addition to the agendas and minutes are being posted on the Town website. The meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted in draft form by Janell Mullen, on 3/24 to be reviewed by the Committee.