

TOWN OF ESSEX
HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Housing Commission (HC): Katie Ballard, Chair; Mia Watson, Clerk; Gabrielle Smith, Vice Chair; Emily Taylor; Michelle Teegarden; Mark Redmond.

Administration and Staff: Owiso Makuku, Essex Community Development Director; Robin Pierce, Essex Junction Community Development Director, Darren Schibler, Town Planner.

Members of the Public: Alison Levy, Rupesh Asher, Ta Tanisha Redditta

1. CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA ADDITIONS / CHANGES

Ballard called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Due to a family matter, Ballard did not have time to complete the Housing Trust Fund Presentation for the Selectboard and Board of Trustees. She proposed a short discussion on the progress of the Housing Trust Fund Presentation and amending the agenda to allow time for Mia Watson to describe the Chittenden Housing Convening.

Smith made a motion, seconded by Teegarden to amend the agenda as suggested. The motion passed 5-0.

2. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Alison Levy and Rupesh Asher are interested in filling the vacant seat on the Housing Commission. Ta Tanisha Redditta is potentially interested as well and attended to learn more.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Welcome to Emily Taylor

Emily Taylor described her experience as a Resident Service Coordinator at Susan's Place, an affordable housing development owned by Champlain Housing Trust. A native of Massachusetts, she attended St. Michael's College, majoring in Psychology.

The Commission members shared brief introductions of themselves for Emily. Ballard described the current structure of the Commission and its working groups.

b. Approval of Minutes

Smith made a motion, seconded by Taylor to approve the minutes from September 15, 2021. The motion passed 6-0.

37

c. Community Engagement

39 Ballard discussed the need for handout materials for tabling. She also discussed an
40 upcoming Community Housing Forum with Essex State Representatives on
41 Wednesday, October 27th 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

42 Watson offered to update the Essex Housing Needs handout. She asked
43 Commission members to send requested updates by October 15. Ballard
44 emphasized need for plain language suitable for a wide audience.

45 Smith asked what the intended audience of the Community Housing Forum is.
46 Ballard said she would clarify with planning group and get back to Commission.
47 Smith said that knowing the audience would help give feedback on handouts.

48 Ballard will work on handout about Housing Commission for the meeting.

49

d. Housing Trust Fund

50

51 Ballard, Smith, and Schibler are working on a presentation for the Selectboard and
52 Trustees, to be presented sometime in November. They are planning to do a high
53 level overview of the Housing Trust Fund, discuss a timeline, and understand Board
54 priorities, get consensus, human connection.

55

e. Chittenden Housing Convening

56

57 Watson attended the Chittenden Housing Convening on Thursday, September 30th.
58 The convening shared updates from the [Building Homes Together Campaign](#). The
59 progress of the campaign over the last five years was presented at the meeting, as
60 well as a discussion on what targets should be planned for the next five years.
61 Chittenden County housing commissions presented. South Burlington is considering
62 expanding Inclusionary Zoning, and Jericho and Shelburne are considering adopting
63 the policy.

64

65

f. ADUs from Planning Commission

66

67 Ballard shared that Diane Clemens from Essex Junction Planning Commission
68 wants the Housing Commission's ideas on promoting Accessory Dwelling Units
69 (ADUs). Watson asked what the specific request was, noting that ADUs are not part
70 of Housing Commission's current workplan.

71

72 Ballard will follow up with Diane Clemens about what the request is and will follow up
73 with Housing Commission on next meeting on whether ADUs should be added to
74 strategic plan.

75

78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111

g. Work Group Updates

i. Rental Registry/Landlord survey

Ballard asked if working group would consider moving forward, despite the uncertainty around a potential Rental Registry bill moving through the Legislature this coming session. Taylor will join Teegarden in the working group to discuss potential projects.

ii. Inclusionary Zoning

After the presentation to the Housing Commission on September 15th, Watson updated the slides with feedback, which has been added to the Inclusionary Zoning folder. She and Mark are ready to present to the Selectboard and the Board of Trustees on October 19th. Ballard encouraged Commission members to review the presentation and send feedback before then.

h. Other Business

Smith asked if we could add check-ins about community meeting events to next meeting. Ballard noted that the October 27th meeting will not have yet taken place before the next Housing Commission meeting, but will add more details about the event at that time.

4. Reading File

There were no comments on the reading file.

5. Adjourn

Ballard called meeting to close at 4:33 PM.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Mia Watson, Clerk.

Minutes approved November 3, 2021