

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Housing Committee May 23, 2023

Attendance: Kathy Hunter, Elaine Feldman, James Graham, Lewis Schaffer

Kathy called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. There was one item on the agenda, - Public Comment on the Town's Affordable Housing Plan.

Kathy explained that the Committee decided to do this Special Meeting as many Commissions and Committee have "Public Comment" as a standing agenda item and although the Housing Committee's meetings are publicly noticed, and do have people that show up to participate, it has never expressly been on the agenda.

Moving forward, Kathy advised that the Housing Committee will include "Public Comment" as a regular agenda because part of our charge is to continually engaged the public and have an inclusive process.

Kathy also reviewed the Housing Committee's revised charge for the public. Previously our Woodbridge Housing Opportunity Study Committee was authorized in February 2021 to deliver a housing plan by June 1st, 2022, which it accomplished. Subsequent to that, the Committee was reconstituted as the Housing Committee with the following objectives.

HOUSING COMMITTEE OJECTIVES: The Housing Committee is charged with exploring, initiating and developing advice to the BOS about ways to create a more diverse and inclusive community with housing opportunities for people at all levels of income and stages of life. The work of the Committee includes guidance to the BOS for a) updating, revising and formulating its long term Housing plan for compliance with Federal and State housing laws including Fair Housing Laws, b) promote a mix of housing opportunities for the Town consistent with applicable law, c) recommend amendments and or modifications to the Town's Affordable Housing Plan filed with the State of Connecticut on or about June 1, 2022.

Public comment was then opened:

A Woodbridge resident suggested the Housing Committee work with other Town agencies to invite pioneering housing investment to create a modern transportation center and high density work force housing along the glacial ridge line because the area is located in a non-public water supply watershed, has access to public water and sanitary sewer and can be connected to, and fuel economic development in, the business district thereby making Woodbridge a partner in the region it so necessarily depends on for survival.

Hearing no other public comment, the hearing was closed at 7:45 pm and the meeting was adjourned.