

Town of Agawam
36 Main St. Agawam, MA., 01001
Agawam Housing Committee

Minutes - March 15, 2022

Members Present: Chair Rosemary Sandlin, Milly Potter, Paul Jenney, Mark Paleologopoulos, Vincenzo Ronghi, Corinne Wingard

Members Absent: Jeremy Casey- note Member Casey moving to East Longmeadow so will no longer be on committee.

1. Roll Call:

2. Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2022:

Motion to approve by Member Wingard, Second by Member Jenney. Chair Sandlin and Members Jenney, Ronghi, and Wingard in favor. Members Potter and Paleologopoulos abstained.

3. Update on 40-R from Subcommittee:

Subcommittee Chair Ronghi said using Northampton and Middleboro as examples for Ordinance. General discussion of 40-R. Subcommittee Chair Ronghi noted City Council has total control. Chair Sandlin said Mayor prefers one bedroom Senior Housing, not Multi family.

Member Paleologopoulos said something similar Planning Board.

Games and Lanes mentioned and plan for whole neighborhood.

Tennis Road being used for something else.

Chair Sandlin suggested identify properties available to purchase – talk to developers, including Boston developers, developers of Pheasant Hill.

Subcommittee Chair Ronghi said take two steps – template for 40-R Ordinance to Subcommittee, then to Committee.

Member Wingard raised concerns about steps required for 40R. e.g. must identify specific geographic area. Suggested telephone conference with DHCD before begin work. Subcommittee Chair Ronghi disagreed

Chair Sandlin said take little steps. Expand template, then take to Mayor, then to DHCD.

4. Housing bills in legislature relevant to Agawam:

Member Wingard stated An Act Relative to Housing Production (H.1448/S.871) would be very beneficial. Chair Sandlin said would talk with Senator Velis to see what he thinks, what status is and if opposition.

6. Update on Wayfinders Rosewood Way development:

Member Wingard reported that Project manager said they are completing pre-closing and hope to complete closing by August with construction hopefully starting mid-August. They have submitted marketing, management, and lottery plans (including local preference), but have not heard anything – understand lack of response is due to overly stretched agencies doing the reviews.

7. Communication from Mayors Office re: Ethics Reform Law and Guide for Members of Public Boards and Commissions:

Reviewed.

8. Announcements:

Member Wingard reported that February 23rd was the annual HUD Point In Time Homeless Count. Agawam has never had anyone in the count, but this year there were two living in a car. At this time the school system has 22 homeless students, and reported over the past ten years have had 20 to 30 each year.

The Fair Housing and Civil Rights Conference will be April 5 – 7, 2022.

MHP will have webinars on Affordable Housing Trusts, and the CPA Act relative to Housing.

9. Agenda suggestions for next meeting:

Update 40R Subcommittee.

Housing Bills Relevant to Agawam.

Revisit ADU's.

Update Wayfinders.

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