

RIDGEFIELD AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: 11/4/2020

Members Present via Zoom conference Call: Dave Goldenberg, Kevin Brown, Lori Mazzola, Sheryl Knapp;
Absent: Kent Rohrer; guest: Whit Campbell

Meeting called to order 7:05

Prospect Ridge extension/DOH Grant: Dave and Kent went to the Board of Selectmen for permission to apply to the state for grant; all but one selectperson supported applying for the grant. The Committee reviewed Dave's proposal and presentation to the BoS. Dave subsequently reached out to planning firms so he could gather the data need to make the request to the DOH; he has gotten back 2 responses and is waiting for third. Estimated cost \$30-60k. Kevin recommended that we promote the number of RHA residents who had a direct connection to Ridgefield before moving in. Dave noted that an earlier survey indicated that approximately 70% had direct connections to community, consistent with what is typically found with municipal housing. Lori asked if the dog park would have to be moved; Dave said that it would not.

Housing for Adults with Disabilities: Dave, Rudy and Ability Beyond met with members of the St. Stephen's Church, who indicated that the church had voted to ask the diocese for permission to sell the South Hall property, and that they intended to proceed. Parishioners had voted to grant permission to sell the property unaware that there was another option to selling; when they later learned of the option to house adults with disabilities, some went to the vestry to request that they reopen consideration of the proposal. Dave noted that we were accepting the church leadership's denial of our proposal as the final word, unless and until we hear otherwise.

Branchville TOD: Kevin indicated that the CT Supreme Court issued an opinion on the foreclosure case a few years ago that cleared the way for the Town of Redding to proceed with a foreclosure. The remaining question is what the Town of Redding wants to do with this contaminated property. Dave proposed possibly having Rudy approach Redding and other towns to possibly assemble a committee to consider Branchville and Georgetown.

8-30g compliance: Whit to review data. Clarified purpose: to determine how many deed restricted units we're likely to lose over periods of time, and then to work with the town to find a solution.

Housing Trust Fund: Lori had nothing further to report at this time; to review with Dave.

Habitat for Humanity: Dave is working on a press release to announce a new search in Ridgefield for a Habitat house.

Desegregate Connecticut: Lori shared feedback from a "Focus on Zoning Legislation" Zoom discussion she attended on October 27th, presented by State Representative Gail Lavielle and the Hands off our Zoning Group.

The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Prepared by Sheryl Knapp