

Town of Richmond Housing Committee Charge

Approved by the Town of Richmond Selectboard on August 17, 2020

Statement of Purpose

The Housing Committee advises the Selectboard, the Planning Commission, the Development Review Board, and Town Staff on the housing needs of the Town of Richmond. The Housing Committee is responsible for gathering the community's demographic information and housing data, generating housing-policy related ideas and concepts, ensuring that housing is made available for all protected classes—including race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, family status, marital status, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, receipt of public assistance, as well as abuse, sexual assault, or stalking victims—and educating the community on housing-related issues. This committee provides recommendations to the Planning Commission Selectboard, Development Review Board, and Town Staff on methods to alleviate housing-related issues and advance the Housing goals of the Town Plan.

Short-term Goals

Below is a list of goals for the 2020 fiscal year (July 2020 to July 2021):

- Develop legible and effective Affordable Housing Density Bonus regulations developing affordable housing regulations with a possible inclusion of a density bonus, in collaboration with the Selectboard, the Planning Commission, and housing partners
- Collect and maintain data on the community's demographics, housing stock (current and projected), and livability; and identify housing issues within the town
- Study the Planning and Zoning ordinances and the Town Plan, and provide policy recommendations to municipal boards to alleviate housing issues in town and advance the Housing goals in the Town Plan

Long-term Goals

Below are a draft list of initial long-term general goals. Other goals that reflect the goals of the Town Plan will be listed in consultation with the Planning Commission and Selectboard at a later date.

- Improve the availability of affordable housing
- Advance Smart Growth goals by fostering:
 - sustainable growth;
 - the creation of residential neighborhoods that are accessible via multi-modal means, including via public transit, walking, and biking;
 - policies that meets residents' special needs, such as ADA-accessibility, recovery housing, and housing for people experiencing homelessness;
 - the preservation of open spaces within town;
- Investigate the relationship between housing and other town-wide issues and providing solutions to housing-correlated issues in terms of housing
- Promote methods to advance renewable energy usage and energy efficiency in housing
- Identify locations within town that can support additional housing and growth
- Identify opportunities and secure funding to:
 - Further study the housing needs and housing policies of the town; and
 - Revitalize and adapt older areas into viable housing options.

- Work with housing partners to bolster the livability of the Richmond community, and to create inclusive housing options.

Membership

The Housing Committee consists of up to nine full-time members, and two alternate members. At least five of its members will be from the public at-large. Such members do not necessarily need to be Town of Richmond residents. However, non-residents interested in serving on the Housing Committee must express an interest in town housing issues, and display expertise in housing-related matters. At least two of the members may be from the Planning Commission. At least two of the members may be from other Richmond town boards and commissions, including the Selectboard, Development Review Board, and Conservation Committee.

All Housing Committee members shall serve two-year terms.

The Town Planner shall assist the Housing Committee upon request

All members shall hold interest and/or expertise in housing and housing-related matters. All full-time and alternate Housing Committee members shall attend all monthly meetings and/or meetings at other arranged times. All members may be expected to undertake periodic work outside committee meetings, such as external research, interviews of subject matter experts, site visits, or training opportunities.

All full-time Housing Committee members have voting powers. Only in the event of the absence of one or more full-time Housing Committee members during a regular meeting, a Housing Committee alternate member shall have voting powers, taking the place of the absent full-time Housing Committee member or members during said meeting.