

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE: July 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Update on affordable housing and establishment of Housing Committee

For the last two months, the Planning Commission has discussed establishing affordable housing regulations. As it dove deeper into the subject matter, the commission found that the breadth and depth of work to develop comprehensive and effective affordable housing regulations would require considerable research and investigation by people who are knowledgeable about housing. The commission concluded that a separate task force that is wholly devoted to researching and drafting affordable housing regulations would need to be established.

During the July 1, 2020 Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission voted to recommend the creation of the housing committee and to forward the enclosed draft Town of Richmond Housing Committee Charge to the Selectboard for its consideration and approval.

This housing committee would operate in an advisory capacity to the Planning Commission, Selectboard, Town Staff, DRB, and any other boards, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4433. Presently, the housing committee would be tasked with drafting affordable housing regulations. However, overall, the Planning Commission intends that the housing committee would be a permanent committee, responsible for:

- Collecting and maintaining data on the current housing stock;
- Researching the town's housing needs by talking to the community, developers and other housing partners; and
- Providing policy recommendations to the Planning Commission, the Selectboard, and other town boards

The housing committee will consist of up to nine members. At least five of the members will be from the public at-large. At least two of the members may be from the Planning Commission, and at least two of the members may be from other Richmond town boards and commissions. I will be staffing the housing committee by attending its regular meetings, and providing advice as needed.

In addition to creating affordable housing regulations, the establishment of a housing committee would fulfill the following Town Plan goal:

- "Create a town housing committee that can identify needs and partner with organizations to help secure funding and identify opportunities for construction or adaptation of housing stock, as well as aid in the creation of affordable housing policies that are welcomed by both developers and residents" (Housing Section, Goal #1, Action Item #3)

To facilitate action by the Selectboard, I have provided the following draft motion:

I, _____, move to create the Town of Richmond Housing Committee and adopt the enclosed charge for the Town of Richmond Housing Committee.