

## Town of Richmond Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13, 2022

Time Started: 7:32 pm

Time Ended: 8:29 pm

Ravi Venkataraman (Host)

Present: Virginia Clarke, Mark Hall (Chair), Sarah Heim, Connie van Eeghen

Guest: Juliana Ward (UVM Intern)

Absent:

Quorum is 4; 4 votes to pass any motion

1. Welcome and troubleshooting
2. Approval of September 8, 2022 meeting minutes
  - a. Accepted as written
3. Adjustments to Agenda
  - a. Note that Sarah's term ends in December; added to other business
4. Introduce Planning Intern - Ravi
  - a. Juliana Ward is a junior at UVM with a major in Environmental Studies, a minor in Economics; from New Jersey and on swim team for past two years; will be studying abroad in Costa Rica; enjoys pottery
  - b. Purpose: estimate the "housing need" in Richmond (beyond the vacancy rate overall)
    - i. Data source: housing data.org, including census, ACS, and other sources TBD
    - ii. Juliana will create a data base corresponding to Brandy's 3<sup>rd</sup> recommendation related to housing creation and affordability metrics, and how to sustain it over time
    - iii. At a minimum, we will be able to track Brandy's specific recommendations over time. In addition, we have the aspirational goal of creating an algorithm of "housing need" to give us a target of units built by 2023 (Richmond's portion of the 5K units needed in the county by that date)
5. Update from the Planning Commission – Virginia
  - a. Recommendations for two mixed use districts (Village and Gateway) have been approved for public hearings: Oct 19 and Nov 2, with a third meeting in reserve if needed. These are two different sets of recommendations, one for each of district, with two separate amendments to be voted on. These amendments include new definitions of the districts that allow overall compatibility.
  - b. See <https://www.richmondvt.gov/calendar/meeting/planning-commission-10-19-22>
  - c. See <https://www.richmondvt.gov/calendar/meeting/planning-commission-11-2-22>
    - i. This includes the multi-family housing development standard, which may also relate to the Oct 19 public hearing
  - d. Goal: development should be concentrated in the center of the village, not support sprawl and encroachment on farm and forest areas
  - e. Showing up at these public hearings can provide neighbor-to-neighbor support
    - i. Goal of public hearings: surface, hear, and respond to public input
  - f. Once the Planning Commission has completed these hearings, it must evaluate the support/feedback received
    - i. Consider a letter from the Housing Committee: supports our consultant's report
    - ii. Send to Ravi to share with Planning Commission and post to website with meeting materials
    - iii. Send before Nov 16 Planning Commission meeting (or third public hearing, if needed) or before a public hearing, if to be read aloud
  - g. Documents are accessed via website: Town of Richmond/Boards and Meetings/Planning Commission/scroll to date to find docs; includes markup and finished versions
6. Review Advocacy Work Plan and next steps
  - a. Farmer's Market outreach was completed in September; the message was that the future is not necessarily just single family homes surrounded by lawns – the future may need to include other ways to live in Richmond
  - b. Committee discussed developing letter of support for Planning Commission (see above)
    - i. Mark will draft; Sarah will review

- ii. Message: Housing Committee is in support of these measures to make it easier to build more housing
- 7. Other business, correspondence, and adjournment
  - a. Recruitment of additional Committee members
    - i. Sarah will start recruiting among her neighbors/friends
    - ii. Mark will post to FPF
  - b. Next meeting: Thursday, Nov 10 at 7:30p
  - c. Proposed agenda to include: update on public hearings/advocacy and support
    - i. Agreed to adjourn at: 8:29pm

Recorded by Connie van Eeghen