

**September 22, 2020 Durham Economic Development Committee Minutes
8 AM Virtual Meeting Zia Zoom**

Committee Members Present: Sally Tobias, Molly Malloy (joined late) , Warren Danial, Al Howland

Durham Staff Members Present: Todd Selig, Christine Sutter.

Ray, Sarah, and Molly were missing so the committee did not have a quorum. As a result, it was not an official meeting, but members present decided to continue and hear Christine's report. Christine Sutter gave an update of Durham economic activity. Harmony Homes is building housing for their employees and there have been discussions of rebuilding or enlarging the Elizabeth Demeritt House. The Town has expressed interest purchasing 66 Main Street. Parking impacts funds collected are set to expire next summer and they could be used towards the purchase of the property. Christine is also working on creating a video that will help promote Durham.

Al gave an update on the Housing Subcommittee. At the last meeting, Micheal Behrendt gave a presentation on Durham Housing. Over the past 10 years, development has consisted 1 to 3 houses projects. He also went over the lot size for the different zones and explain how the number of possible homes per lot is calculated. Large lots size requirements in rural zones and wetlands made it challenging to build larger developments. Additionally, multifamily and duplexes where not allowed in many zones. The committee then focused on possible locations for affordable non-student housing.

The committee then talked about possible goals for the next year. Advocating for zoning chances and projects that help the redevelopment of downtown was mentioned. Al asked for the committee to think about the goals and the topic would be further discussed in October.

Al mentioned that the Town Council had voted to extend the mask ordinance. Feedback from local business owners on the impact with students had been positive.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27, and the next meeting is scheduled for October 20.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Howland

