

Housing Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 13, 2021, at 10 am

Durham Council Chambers

Members Present Tom Elliott, Chair
Al Howland, Council Rep.
Heather Grant, Planning Board Rep.
Charlotte Hitchcock
Richard England
Sally Tobias, EDC Rep. (joined at 11:10 via Zoom)

Members Absent Mimi Kell

Others Present Sarah Wrightsman, Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast
Michael Behrendt, Town Planner

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Tom Elliott.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Al Howland made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes; Richard England seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Minutes were not taken at the August meeting.

Updates from Town Staff and Boards

Heather Grant shared brief updates from the Planning Board on Mill Plaza, 74 Main Street, and Gerrish Drive. Al Howland shared brief updates from the Town Council on 66 Main Street.

Tom Elliot initiated an updated on the state of Durham's Economic Development Department. Economic Development Director, Christine Soutter, has resigned. The Town has opted not to fill the vacant position. The Economic Development Committee is also dormant, prompting the Housing Subcommittee to become its own committee – more discussion is needed on this topic.

Discussion

There was a lively discussion concerning the future of student housing and the future of economic development in Durham.

Sally Tobias joined the meeting via Zoom at 11:10 am.

Strategic Plan / Housing Committee Report

Sarah Wrightsman, Charlotte Hitchcock, and Heather Grant shared the slides they had prepared for the August meeting on why housing matters to Durham.

There was a discussion on next steps and what is needed for the committee to create a strategic plan to guide the next 18 months.

Michael Behrendt will collect regulatory suggestions from committee members to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Al Howland made a motion to adjourn; Heather Grant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday, October 11, 2021, at 10 am. This meeting will likely be rescheduled due to Indigenous People's Day. The Council Chambers will be unavailable for the next several months, so the location of future meetings is unknown at this point.

The meeting concluded at 11:51 am.

Minutes submitted by Sarah Wrightsman.