

Hillsdale Housing Committee
Notes of Meeting – April 9, 2022
(draft)

Present: Steve Bluestone, Shirley Bresler, Joe Browdy, Tom Carty, Ellen Levy, Janis Smythe, Laurie Winfrey
Absent: Rene Gibson, Rick Kumro Frank Upham, James Wagman, Joan Wallstein

The meeting was brought to order at about 10:20.

Janis reported on hearing from two new people interested in the work of the Housing Committee. One was Dimitri Brand, a Yale trained architect, who expressed concern about the need for affordable housing in the area and has some valuable ideas about our work. He was not able to be with us for this meeting, but indicated he would like to work with us. The other was a young woman, Sophie Richards, who has studied Housing Management in grad school and is also interested in helping out. We discussed trying to open up the committee to a broader representation of the community, including long term and younger residents.

Ellen reported on the ongoing discussions with local land owners, with regard to possible workforce housing development. Some potential developers were named, including Construct in Gt. Barrington and others who have had success in working with the State to obtain funding essential to create below market rate units.

Steve B mentioned The Galvan group in Hudson as a possible developer. He agreed to reach out to them with regard to a particular property that we had heard might become available.

Compensation for Rose Noonan, the Executive Director of the Housing Action Council, was brought up. She has been acting as our consultant and put in a great deal of time, all without compensation. The Committee has \$750 in Town funds available for our work, but this would probably be insufficient, particularly if she were to continue her work with us. Should we explore other sources of support for her time?

Janis mentioned a study showing that the rate of child poverty was higher in Hillsdale than in the adjacent towns, according to an article in the Times Union—a situation which was a sad change since the last report of its kind.

The committee agreed to continue to work on matching a developer with a willing landowner in Town.

The meeting was concluded at c. 11:20 a.m.

EGL