

January 12, 2021

Senior Housing Alternatives Study Committee

Special Meeting Minutes

Meeting hosted via Zoom.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 9:36am by Chairperson Stave.

Roll Call: Aline Hoffman, Christine Pattee, Alexa Gorlick, Richard Brand, Valdis Vinkels, Sondra Astor Stave, Eric Trott, John Twerdy

News and Updates:

None.

Memo to Town Council – time extension to report:

The memo was prepared and forwarded to the Town Council. It will be considered at the next meeting. It is not expected to be an issue to extend the timeframe. It was suggested that a final draft of the report could be available in May 2021.

Status of survey analysis:

The 'write in' responses were requested to be shared with the Committee. Mark will be asked to provide these.

Christine asked to see the raw data from Survey Monkey, which will be accommodated.

The Survey Monkey results were shared with the Committee. A lengthy discussion occurred about the data results. It was suggested the data be carefully evaluated to determine trends so that viable recommendations can be made. Also, care needs to be taken to not create recommendations that are very exclusive. There may need to be a range of choices that is reflected in the study. It was suggested to look at the comprehensive responses rather than solely focusing on one response that may tell a different or conflicting story on the subject.

The timing of the need for senior housing was an interesting survey element to consider. The majority of the respondents are looking at 6 to 10 years from now, not immediate as was previously thought.

The question of owning vs renting senior housing was discussed at length. The majority of responses indicated a neutral response and leaned towards renting vs owning.

Next steps after the study is completed was discussed as well. It will be important for the study to have clear menu choices available for the Town Council to consider that will allow for potential projects or preparation for future projects to unfold.

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The importance of a good regulatory platform and carefully created design criteria cannot be understated. Recommendations on this matter will be incorporated into the study.

The matter of 'affordable' housing demand was discussed. Based upon the understanding the Committee has and the data that has been received, there is a clear need for affordable options for seniors. Senior housing is the Committee's focus versus the overall need for affordable housing for other age groups.

Next steps include: continue to evaluate results of community survey; determine what the response trends are; identify specific potential land that could support senior housing; identify the variety of types of senior housing that are options to consider; cost considerations; financial considerations; mapping of potential viable sites will also be provided.

Site Analysis:

Richard is working on a list of potentially viable properties that can be considered. Staff has also compiled a list that will be the subject of GIS mapping analysis.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57am.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric M. Trott

Director of Planning and Development