Minutes
Senior Housing Alternatives Study Committee Meeting
January 31, 2020
Town Hall Annex

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by Matthew O'Brien Sr., Town Council Vice Chair. Present: Matthew O'Brien Sr., Mark Landolina, Sondra Stave, Roberta Wilmot, Christine Pattee, Aline Hoffman and John Twerdy.

Matthew O'Brien explained that as the representative from the Town Council he calls the first meeting of a new committee to order. He called for nominations for the position of the Committee Chair. Christine Pattee nominated Sondra Stave. There were no additional nominations and a vote passed unanimously.

Matthew O'Brien called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Christine Pattee nominated Roberta Wilmot. There were no additional nominations and a vote was called which passed unanimously.

Matthew O'Brien called for nominations for the position of Secretary. Aline Hoffman nominated Christine Pattee. There were no additional nominations and a vote was called which passed unanimously.

Matthew O'Brien then reviewed the charge to the committee. It was noted that there is 6 months to complete the study, after reporting to the Council, the group may ask for a vote for an extension of time if warranted. It was noted that there may be an error in the number of members constituting a quorum, which may be four which is a majority of seven members. Staff will look into if this should be amended. In addition, some members noted that we need services to keep people in their homes in Coventry. If we would like to amend our charge, we can request it and have the council vote it.

The group agreed on a bi-weekly schedule, to meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 am - 11 am. Our next meeting will be on February 18th. There will not be a meeting on the 4th of February. The meeting locations is to be determined at this time, but the group requested to book the Town Hall Conference Room B for each meeting.

The members were given background materials on housing and demographic data in Coventry, including sections of the Plan of Conservation and Development, Partnership for Strong Communities Housing Data Profiles, and the housing needs assessment for Sustainable CT. Members discussed their interest and perceived roles in the group and project.

We have one vacancy for the group, a new member can be appointed by the Council. A request was made to keep Matthew O'Brien CC'd on the group announcement emails.

We will define what the needs are.
We went over what is important for the committee members. Some include:

- Affordable senior housing
- Some members relate to this issue on a personal level
- Interested in reviewing all types of affordable housing
- Charming architecture and design
- The desire to not worry about maintenance or ownership of their housing.
- Housing that has garage/carport availability
- Interest in reviewing other senior housing projects in CT, possibly visiting a project and speaking to other towns that have been through the process recently.
- Community based projects. Privacy is important, but also community oriented with communal space and walkability to other units.
- Exploring Public-private partnerships
- Some members have personal items they do not want to get rid of, so they would like to see adequate floor space and storage. Others do not mind downsizing.
- They like having neighbors, feeling safer, connected.

Provide any additional materials that serve as foundational information towards making decisions (zoning map, clear sewer and water map, buildable land, etc.). At future meetings we can invite developers, specific staff members (Town Planner, WPCA, etc.) and other experts in this type of work.

Next steps include creating a work plan and going over the housing/demographic data, and establishing the initial concept.

The date for the next meeting was set for February 18th at 9:30 AM (Town Hall Conference Room B or Annex).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Landofina
Planning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer