Minutes
Senior Housing Alternatives Study Committee Meeting
June 23, 2020
Via. Zoom Online Video Conference

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 am by Sondra Astor Stave, Chairperson. 

Present Members: Sondra Astor Stave, Christine Pattee, Dick Brand, John Twerdy and Roberta Wilmot, Aline Hoffman

Present Staff: Mark Landolina, Laurie Bradley

Present Guests: None

Absent: Valdis Vinkels

Upon a unanimous vote, the June 9, 2020 minutes were approved.

News and Updates
None.

Discussion

- Staff reviewed current progress with our study. This includes reviewing demographics, housing needs, feasibility considerations, surrounding senior housing options, types of senior housing, potential properties/locations, housing authority/affordable housing, and our survey. We discussed our next steps that we would like included in our study. We determined that it would be best to wait until after our survey results have been tabulated to report to the Town Council.

- The group discussed the final revisions for the senior housing survey. This included updated housing costs and clarification on a couple of questions. The group members that filled out the survey said that it took about 10 minutes to fill out, which is reasonable for the amount of information we will gain.

- The group discussed logistics for sending out the survey. We plan to send the survey to about 300 senior households (60+). The mailing addresses will be obtained from the senior center mailing list. We will need to include prepaid return envelopes with the survey to encourage higher response rates. Once all the materials are gathered, some members of the group will meet (socially distanced with masks) in the Town Hall Annex to stuff the envelopes.

- The group will reach out to the press to hopefully have an article written about the study. We hope to have an interview with a reporter to get more publicity and awareness of our study. Our main objectives are to bring community engagement into the study to gain an equitable and accurate report for implementing future senior housing.

- Dick Brand and John Twerdy identified several parcels in town that could be considered for senior housing development. Most of the parcels are in the Coventry Village area and have access to public sewer. We will look at each parcel and assess the feasibility from a physical and entitlements standpoint, as well as how their location would fit with the needs of what seniors want. This will be a focus after we receive the survey results. This list will be provided for the town council with our recommendations.

- Aline will return the senior cohousing book for others to read.
Next Steps

- Talk to the press about our study and survey.
- Send out survey online and by mail

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Landolina
Planning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer