

**Town of Sullivan, NH
Housing Task Force
Meeting Minutes, June 26, 2023
Sullivan Town Hall/Planning Office (Lower Level)**

Members present: Leslie Casey (chair), Wendy Pelletier, Gaynelle Pratt, Brad Smith, Paul Bolduc (Selectman)

Planning Consultant: Ivy Vann AICP, CNU-A

Public present: None

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:41 AM.

B. Community Engagement:

- June 15th Housing Potluck- The Housing Potluck was held from 6 PM to 8 PM at the Sullivan Congregational Church friendship hall. About 45 members of the community participated, in addition to the Housing Task Force (P. Bolduc was absent). Input on attitudes toward housing was elicited via interactive displays. I. Vann presented results of the online Housing Survey, which had 95 respondents, and highlights of the Housing Needs Assessment. Discussion followed.

The group agreed that in terms of attendance, the event was a success. I. Vann noted that the discussion at the end was unexpectedly weighted toward opposition to the grant project and to any changes intended to increase housing options in Sullivan. B. Smith noted that there seemed to be a fear of all options among participants. It might have been helpful to make it clearer early on that only small tweaks to the code are anticipated as outcomes of the grant project. It was noted that almost none of the “key informant” interviewees had been there.

- Community Engagement Plan – I. Vann recommended that additional community engagement events be held, with the first taking place no later than the end of July. They would be geared toward more focused conversations. A “World Café” format of small groups discussing selected topics could be employed, for example. The team agreed that not enough people in the community are prepared to engage on housing topics at that level right now. L. Casey commented that the grant timeline has pushed Task Force to move fast. Despite efforts to provide information through articles, published reports, etc., the fast pace seems to be leaving some folks behind.

The group decided that a series of informational sessions on housing topics could help foster more understanding of housing options. Some aspects of Sullivan’s development pattern are not optimal. Housing options not only give people more choice of places to live, but give landowners more power over how they use their properties. W. Pelletier said she had spoken with Phil Croteau about the challenges of walking in Sullivan, and not having a community experience like he has on Cape Cod. I. Vann added that to be walkable, a place needs safety, interest and a destination.

The informational sessions will take place on Thursdays at 6:30 PM at the church. Postcards will be sent out. The first topic will be Accessory Dwelling Units on July 27th. I. Vann said she would order ADU booklets from AARP and she would arrange to have an expert on the topic do a presentation. Later session topics will likely be Subdivision (August 17th), House Shares (September 14th), and Village Nodes (October 12th).

- C. Approval of Draft Minutes for June 14th meeting:** B. Smith moved to approve the minutes for the June 14th meeting, G. Pratt seconded. Approval of the minutes was unanimous.
- D. Adjournment:** L. Casey adjourned the meeting at 9:50 AM. The next meeting of the Sullivan Housing Task Force will be held on Wednesday, July 12th at 9:00 AM in the Sullivan Town Hall, Planning Office (Lower Level).

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie Casey
Sullivan Housing Task Force, Chair