

Minutes

Housing Trust Fund Task Force

March 23, 2016

Attendance: The following Task Force members were in attendance: Debbie Ingram, Benjamin King, Charlie Magill, Ted Brady, Jeff Fehrs, Scott Rieley. Staff Present: Ken Belliveau, Planning Director; Rick McGuire, Town Manager.

1. Call to Order: The first meeting of the Task Force was called to order by Mr. McGuire at 7:35 a.m.
2. Introductions: Mr. McGuire asked each Task Force member to briefly introduce themselves and explain why they have an interest in serving on the Task Force.
3. Review of Charge: Mr. McGuire asked if there were any questions concerning the Charge assigned to the Task Force. He explained that he suspects the Selectboard will be flexible on the time schedule.
4. Elect Chair and Vice Chair: Mr. McGuire asked if there were any nominations/volunteers. Debbie Ingram was selected as Chair and Charlie Magill as Vice Chair.
5. Overview: Mr. Belliveau distributed a short summary of the Affordable Housing Task Force Report. Mr. McGuire noted the report is available on-line and was sent via email to the Trust Fund Task Force. Mr. Belliveau reviewed a few of the cost factors and fees affecting the price of homes in Williston such as impact fees, utility connection fees etc. The Town's growth management system was also reviewed by Mr. Belliveau and the incentives it provides for affordable housing. Mr. Belliveau suggested creating a mechanism in development regulations that provide a donation to the Trust Fund as an option.
6. Future topics: How we fund the Trust Fund and how it should be spent were two major topics suggested by Ms. Ingram. Mr. McGuire suggested the Task Force determine what the next step should be and what information the Task Force might need. Ms. Ingram explained that Mr. King has done some preliminary research and this information will be shared by email. Mr. King suggested contacting lenders and agencies. Burlington, Charlotte and Montpelier were mentioned as having existing Trusts. The Vermont Housing Conservation Board was also mentioned as a possible resource. There was some discussion on how much should be placed in the Trust Fund. Mr. Brady asked if it might be possible to have an impact fee to help fund affordable housing.
7. Next Meeting: Ms. Ingram asked about meeting frequency. It was suggested once or twice per month. April 5th was suggested as the next meeting date starting at 7:30 a.m.
8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.