

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE
Minutes of June 23, 2023**

I. ROLL CALL. Committee Chair Erin Hicks-Tibbles, Members Danielle Pelczarski, Blake Pierson, and Tom Bright. Also in attendance were Mitch Osiecki (Northfield Zoning Administrator), Tom Davis (Northfield Economic Development Director), and guests Karen Boyce, Executive Director of the Veterans Place, Anne Donohue, Northfield State Representative, Kristen Gadbois, resident, Karen Davis, from CERV, and Merry Shernock, Select Board Member. The meeting did not begin with a quorum and was an informational session as a result.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled): None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No action on the minutes.

IV. DISCUSSION:

- a. Discussion with Ken Hammond, VT Agency of Human Services regarding the homeless situation in Northfield.

Mr. Hammond addressed the group in an informal format regarding the homeless population and the Vermont Agency of Human Services recent letter to municipalities with the subject line Interest in Resources and Support for 2023 Homeless Response Efforts.

The letter seeks to identify partners from a variety of sectors who are seeking advice and funding to implement immediate response efforts to the termination of the Vermont Homeless Motel program. Discussion included available data to determine the homeless population in Northfield, various programs and assets other Vermont communities are deploying to assist with the situation, and next steps if the town wished to move forward with a request for funding.

Mr. Pierson asked if there was a model that the community could follow to ensure that any services provided by the community would be for the purpose of assisting homeless families through a transition to being housed.

Ms. Boyce explained that her organization, the Veterans Place, has a high percentage of their veteran homeless population who successfully complete this transition. The group was interested in learning more at a future meeting.

Mr. Hammond explained that the town would be required to work with a nonprofit fiscal agent. The subcommittee agreed they should contact CERV or NCDN as

possible fiscal agents. The group also agreed to move forward on the possibility of seeking funding but did not identify specific next steps at this meeting.

Chair Hicks-Tibbles suggested she would follow up with subcommittee members and guests who were present with future action steps. Mr. Hammond said he would make himself available to future discussions from those working on the project.

A complete video recording of the meeting may be viewed at the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/sDYaV3z90uvsZED0aKxHIIPqhYUvtv2DYoQ2ktXYRrF7oTqkfawLj_x72QDnl_05.jsFPmIW64U2-rte8?startTime=1687543255000

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b. Other Matters

All other matters were tabled until the next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT. The subcommittee adjourned at approximately 3:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Davis

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Economic Development Director