

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE
Minutes of September 29, 2023**

I. ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Erin Hicks-Tibbles, Members Lydia Petty, Tom Bright, Michael Krause, and Megan Roush. Also in attendance were Mitch Osiecki (Northfield Zoning Administrator).

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:29pm.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (scheduled): None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 08/25/23 and 08/10/23 meetings were approved.

IV. DISCUSSION

a. Do we want to propose joining the Common Futures Downtown and Housing Task Force?

Mr. Krause indicates that we will need to see if the Select Board has concerns with needing a subcommittee specifically. Also, how much overlap exists in mission and vision?

Mr. Osiecki points out that the Task Force has shared products with a wider audience than just Task Force members. What can we accomplish?

Ms. Hicks-Tibbles indicates that we could partner with planning and zoning to do community listening groups.

Mr. Bright indicates that housing and development are interconnected. Mr. Tom Davis (Economic Development

Director) is the contact point for each and state organizations need such a single contact. Two groups is redundant. Most of the work will come from responding to those with ideas and money.

Ms. Petty is concerned about the possibility of both groups fizzling because the overlap is burdensome. Job is to gather data, communicate, educate.

Mr. Bright asks whether we need the weight of being a town committee. Ms. Hicks-Tibbles and Ms. Petty think probably not as long as we are able to partner with the town as needed.

b. Other Business

Mr. Krause explains that the housing work at the Veteran's Place was substantive enough that it warranted a full time employee and they were then able to expand services into medical care. This has been very successful for their clients. Mr. Osiecki points out that we learned from the flood that government help takes so much work to apply that it isn't much help at all.

Discussed possibility of setting up a community fund to better help people. Community donations have been essential after the floods.

V. ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Hicks -Tibbles