

Greater Newburyport Housing Choice Coalition Minutes

Thursday 1/18/24 at 6:00pm

YWCA 13 Market St. (Hybrid)

1. Welcome- Monica 6:05-6:10
 - a. Set ground rules, goals, and expectations of meeting
 - . Respect one another's opinions- not all have to agree
 - . Notes are being taken but won't share individual's thought in notes
 - . Step up, Step back
 - . Not everyone knows everything, together we know more
 - . Avoid jargon and acronyms
 - a. Reintroduce working groups
 - . Expectations of the meeting for working groups
2. Break into working groups 1. 6:10-6:35 2. 6:35-7:00
 - a. Each working group should have at least one steering committee member
 - . Groups will switch half-way through
 1. Introduce yourself and your community
 2. Start discussion

Zoom Grp.-Sadé reporting - discussed Education

challenges, what we need to know

Establishing a grp. of supporters, like us

Prepare testimony guides to help people have talking points

Housing is for everyone

Successful—note a development that local residents were afraid of, & how the development is now doing (which is typically much better than expected)

What is zoning, especially exclusionary zoning

Legislative Group – Judy

Actual leg. to work on for State (housing bond bill)

local initiatives – Accessory Dwelling Units, MBTA communities (have to allow for multifamily “by right”), Community Preservation Act \$, tax exemption for affordable unit

want to learn more about the zoning language, be educated about exclusionary zoning (races, classes, etc.)

how do we galvanize communities to support issues

research best practices

Projects – Sarah

Find out which communities have Community Preservation Acts (\$ that can be used toward affordable housing needs, among other priorities),

Affordable Housing Trusts, Housing Production Plans

Nbpt.-has potential of old C&J lot + Brown Sch. as opportunities discussed idea of sitting down with Council Members, &/or having a community forum

Education – Sue

need to educate ourselves & others – look at Housing Prod. Plans as a base of information & goals (updated Plans likely not available until June)

learn more about Accessory Dwelling Units, Community Preservation Acts, glossary of housing terms

use graphics for info. to communities

set up an email group with one another, figure out where & how to start interested in viewing the Housing 101 slides from CHAPA since the presentation may be a couple of months out.

Communication & Faith-based Group -- Annmary

Habitat, Resettlement Partnership, Council on Churches, communication around hot issues, articles, Housing Navigator is a great resource --

https://search.housingnavigatorma.org/?_gl=1*hri5xl*_ga*MTgyNTg3NDcyLjE3MDIwNDkzNjc.*_ga_TBSYQ2F0X9*MTcwNTcwNTk4OS40LjEuMTcwNTcwNjE2MC42MC4wLjA.

2. Action Plan

- a. Working Groups need to decide if they will have regular meetings, when and how, and what their next steps will be
- b. Who is missing in the room? How do we bring them in? – like West Newbury seems to not be represented.

Housing Bond Bill

- c. Ask for volunteers - Annmary – requested volunteers to help write articles for Newburyport Daily News. Dave Rogers has agreed to a weekly column on Mondays, 600 words or less, Housing to Home, & we don't have to use the names of individuals with housing needs/stories
- d. Upcoming Local Meetings:

MVPC HPP meeting in West Newbury -- **West Newbury Housing Needs Open House**
Thursday, January 25, 2024, 5:30-7:00pm

The meeting will be held in the first floor meeting room of Town Offices. It will include a presentation followed by discussion stations.

Come engage with residents and Town staff on topics related to affordable housing in West Newbury. These discussions will inform the Town's 2024-2028 Housing Production Plan. Topics include the Mullen property, the MBTA Communities Act, and the AHT Home Improvement Grant!

Newbury Housing Production Planning - Public Meeting -
Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, 6:30pm - Newbury Town Library, 0 Lunt St,
Byfield

All residents of Newbury are invited to join staff from the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and the Newbury planning department and Planning Board for a discussion on Newbury's update to the 5-year Housing Production Plan. The January 29th community forum will be an opportunity for residents to learn more about Newbury's housing needs. You can read more about this planning work on the town website: [Housing Production Plan Update](#).

- e. Monica from CHAPA will send out info. about the Governor's Bond Bill, <https://www.mass.gov/lists/housing-bond-bill>
Low Income Housing Tax Credit,
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/low-income-housing-tax-credit-lihtc-0#:~:text=The%20Low%20Income%20Housing%20Tax,rehabilitation%20of%20affordable%20rental%20housing.>
Housing Navigator Link --
https://search.housingnavigator.ma.org/?_gl=1*_hri5xl*_ga*MTgyNTg3NDcyLjE3MDIwNDkzNjc.*_ga_TBSYQ2F0X9*MTcwNTcwNTk4OS40LjEuMTcwNTcwNjE2MC42MC4wLjA.

Discussed "Hotel & STRU tax", <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/room-occupancy-excise-tax>
This appears to be going into the Gen. Funds of most cities & towns, but it could be requested to be used for housing needs, ? it might be redirected to Housing Trust – this is a possible action item.

Around 30 people attending tonight (including about 10 people on zoom):
Amesbury – a few people raised their hands
Salisbury – Monica & Deb
Newbury – Kristin & Pam
Nbpt. – many folks
W. Newbury – Juliette working on recruiting someone, + Madeline

Who is missing from the room? -- Environmental groups might be willing to join us, as we have some concerns in alignment; any developers in the rm.? – Nat Coughlin was here last month; see above for W. Newbury.

Jackie (YWCA) is our email contact for the group, getting responses of interest.
Next mtg. of the monthly Housing Choice Coalition is Th., 2/15, YWCA in Nbpt. at 6 pm
Our March mtg. will be at the Amesbury Sr. Ctr.