

Living Well Minutes 1/22/18

Attending:

Alvin Ahlers, Rod Duckworth, Priscilla Brobst, Gay Peterson, Ginny Vandyke, Donna Palmer, Steven Palmer

Town Manager Rosemary Roy

Representing Comprehensive Committee: Sandra Falsey

Representing Economic Development and Sustainability by telephone: Patrick Gilligan

Guest: Patricia Oh, AARP representative for Age Friendly Communities

Introduction:

The town has been taking progressive moves toward efforts at reaching to develop Village Center property that would include more housing options. This is particularly noted by the work of the ED&S, Comprehensive Plan, collaboration with the Planning Board and presentations to the Select Board.

This recent attention to housing and affordability suggested the need for a common understanding of the most frequently used terms when discussing development in our town. It was on this important point that we invited Patricia Oh to assist us in discussing the terms and how we might apply them in our town.

The conversation covered Low Income, Workforce, Assisted Living, Mixed Housing, Senior Housing, Accessory Dwelling Units, Pods, subsidized housing, Maine State Housing Authority. As one committee member said, the scope is enormous.

Summary of the meeting:

There was general agreement that:

- Housing options need to be available for people on the edge of affording to live in North Yarmouth. Housing options affect demographic diversity
- Strong sentiment that developments should be designed with mixed age options
- We should be advocating for the missing middle housing.
- From Rod Duckworth: housing options should relate to the stages of life. (I thought what a brilliant but simplistic strategy to determine if a community is inclusive of all age categories and their concomitant needs)
- Committee intercommunication can serve to strengthen the message. The LWN, EDSC, Comprehensive Plan and the Planning board will achieve optimum results when input is sought, where appropriate of course.
- Encourage the Planning Board to consider pursuing Accessory Dwelling Units(ADU's)
- Provide letters of support to the EDSC, the Planning Board, the SelectBoard as was done in the previous letter sent by Living Well in North Yarmouth. Cross pollination, a term Rod applied when the group was discussing this.

Other:

We discussed the cribbage tournament. Now the event is a simple gathering of people for no other reason than to have an enjoyable morning with neighbors.

Donna proposed the idea of a chocolate event The committee agreed to this event as a fundraising kick starter for renovation of the Old Town House.. Details need to be developed after we reach out to the Historical Society.

Steve asked the group if as part of the Celebrating Our Parks we might consider a drone/airplane flying demonstration at one of the parks. The group was very enthusiastic. Steve will begin work on this.

Next meeting Feb 19th, 1 PM

As usual alert me to anything I should have included in the minutes and/or corrections that must be made. Thanks for everyone's active participation. Great meeting.

Meeting ended at 2:50.

Steven Palmer