

Egremont Housing Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 13, 2023
Zoom

Chairs Doug Mishkin and Judi Goodman called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Attendance: Committee members Elizabeth Keen, Doug Mishkin, Judi Goodman, Bob Noonan, Bruce Kafenbaum and Mark Holmes, and Egremonters Lisa and Richard Bolestro, Mary and George McGurn, James Dipisa and Stephanie James.

Minutes of the February 13, 2023 meeting were approved with changes from Doug and Judi.

Report on 6 Acres of Town Land

We are waiting to see the response from the Expression of Interest that was approved by the Select Board on January 24 pertaining to a potential grant of \$250,000 for preliminary testing and engineering work at the site.

Committee talked about whether several properties for sale now could be used for affordable housing: Red Barn at 41 and 23, The Elm Court Inn, The Inn at Sweet Water Farm.

Review from Saturday's meeting of Comprehensive Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan

-Members Bob Noonan, Elizabeth Keen, Mark Holmes and Doug Mishkin each shared their impressions of the meeting, which were generally: Great positive energy, great turn out, good organizing from consultants, work force and affordable housing was discussed in relation with the other topics, i.e., How to have open space and affordable housing? How does affordable housing effect economic development.

-Some of the actions discussed were utilizing private existing structures to use as affordable/workforce housing and tax incentives/subsidies to encourage home owners to keep homes with local workforce living in them.

George McGurn talked about the possibility of bringing the Community Preservation Act to a town vote again.

Mary McGurn discussed a grant the Planning Board (PB) has received in the amount of \$60,000 to review and get the technical expertise to make the appropriate zoning bylaw changes with the specific intention of making additional housing easier. She strongly suggested the PB and the Housing Committee work together to make these changes and get the bylaw passed.

She also sees a great opportunity for the two committees to work together to advocate for more ADUs for the purpose of keeping seniors in place and provide affordable housing.

New Business

A member raised the Habitat project for North Plain Road that was the subject of an article in the Edge about the proposed increased from 20 to 30 units.

Next meeting Tuesday April 18th, 5:00 zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Keen for Richard Allen