

Hillsdale Housing Committee

Your town, your voice



April 9, 2018 -- 9AM at Town Hall -- Meeting Notes

Present: Ellen Levy, Tina Sharpe, Hank Henward, Tom Carty, Laura Griffin, Laurie Winfrey, Janis Smythe, Steve Bluestone, and guest Brenda Adams of Habitat for Humanity.

This meeting centered around the review of the list of potential Habitat project sites, using a spreadsheet provided by Steve Bluestone.

General discussion, questions for guest Brenda Adams of Habitat:

1. Why does Habitat favor home ownership projects vs rental? Ownership ends up more affordable than renting, plus it helps homeowners establish credit and build equity.
2. Are there housing vouchers (section 8) available now? According to Tina, vouchers are managed out of a central office -- 6 month to 12 month waiting list. Rents being asked for are out of the payment standard (too high). Tina filled us in about the Greenport Gardens project.
3. Brenda encouraged us to get out the word on the info in our brochure from the Housing Fair-- discussed ways to get that out more. Tina to assist with this.
4. Fundraising: Brenda was asked about fundraising efforts available, to help offset costs. Tina: use the Town newsletter (and other methods). Idea from Shirley: prepare a press release with Habitat's help. (Brenda agreed)
5. How does *Brush with Kindness* work? Brenda explained that Habitat is not

allowed to go into a property but can help with improvements on the outside of the building (cleaning out gutters, cutting back shrubs, etc.)

Services for seniors: Tina talked about efforts to educate people more broadly on services available for seniors -- *more details forthcoming*.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20AM.

Next meeting: 2nd Monday of May (May 14th), 9AM at Town Hall.