

Hillsdale Housing Committee

Your town, your voice



September 18, 2017

Present: Ellen Levy, Laurie Winfrey, Hank Henward, Janis Smythe, Joyce Lappen, Tina Sharpe, Steve Bluestone, Laura Griffin, Shirley Bresler, Tom Carty

Absent: Rick Kumro, Joe Browdy, Frank Upham

Meeting began at 9:40AM.

The focus of this meeting was to discuss the "actionable items" that had been listed in our final report to Berkshire Taconic, and create subcommittees for each item:

- Subcomm for exploring revisions to the Hillsdale **accessory apartment laws**. Chair to be Joe Browdy (pending his approval), with Ellen and Hank.
- Subcomm for looking into **code enforcement** regarding rentals -- are needs being met, is additional manpower called for, are landlords aware of programs that might help them? Chair Laura, with Shirley. Tina discussed providing information and education to tenants re: their rights. Also, committee would look into economic programs to help eligible renters and programs for landlords.
- Subcomm for ensuring that our **seniors are aware of all of the programs and services** available to them, for example "Safe at Home", "Brush with Kindness", Weatherization. Chair Tina, with Joyce, both of whom represent Hillsdale on the Senior Advisory Council.
- Subcomm for site searching for a possible location for a housing project. Chair Steve, with Tom and Laurie.
- Subcomm specifically related to a potential **Habitat partnership**. Chair Janis, with Joyce. Tina volunteered to draft a letter to Habitat to make them aware of our interest.

Note on all subcommittee assignments: although the teams were identified, all should feel free to consult with other members of the Housing Committee as needed.

We ask that Frank and Rick indicate which of the five subcommittees they would like to join.

Steve suggested that we create a fundraising committee so that we would be prepared should a piece of property come along that we would want to buy. However, the committee felt that that might be premature, as funds are more easily raised when a specific property or goal has been defined.

The second agenda item was to discuss co-Chair Ellen's desire to find a replacement for herself. No candidates were identified, but two actions were decided:

- A committee Secretary position would be created, to handle meeting notes and scheduling. Laura volunteered and was approved.
- The topic of a new co-Chair would be discussed again in six months, at which time it is possible that Steve will be able to accept the position.

Next meeting date: a doodle poll will be issued, primarily with Friday afternoon dates in October.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45.