

Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness

January 15, 2020

Hartford Town Hall - Room 317

In attendance: Mike Chamness, Michelle Kersey, Karl Ebbighausen, Noel Bryant, Dan Fraser, Michael Redmond, Roger King - Community Member, Georgia , Jesse Vazzano

Members: Mike Chamness - UV Gear, Scott Fletcher - Community Member, Michelle Kersey - Twin Pines Housing, Michael Redmond - Upper Valley Haven, Jesse Vazzano - Community Member, Renee Weeks - Upper Valley Haven

Ex Officio: Whitney Hussong - Hartford PD, Sgt Karl Ebbighausen - Hartford PD, Tom DeBalsi - Hartford School District, Lori Hirshfield - Town of Hartford, Noel Bryant - Hartford School District

Selectboard Liaison: Dan Fraser

1. Call to order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm.
2. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
3. Minutes: Chamness made a motion to accept the minutes from the 12/18/19 meeting. The motion was seconded by Kersey and unanimously approved.
4. Announcements:
 - President Trump's appointment of Robert Marbut as head of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness will likely lead to movement away from the currently accepted Housing First model. HUD is already removing the term "Housing First" from notices.
 - Today was Vermont Homelessness Awareness Day at the state house. Renee Weeks provided testimony before two committees. There has been a strong call for additional supportive housing and continued relief for VT 211. The state is looking to extend the Family Supportive Housing program to the three districts that are not currently covered. There continues to be some talk about moving 211 administration from state to local level, but there will need to be further discussion.
 - An overview of the second phase of development for Twin Pines Housing's Wentworth project was covered at Tuesday's Selectboard meeting. The project will include 17 new affordable apartments on Sykes Mountain Ave and 4 apartments in Wilder on a former brownfield site across from Datamann.
 - The 19 Days fundraising efforts raised \$378,000 for the Upper Valley Haven this year.
 - The School Board expressed an interest in the progress of the committee and would like to see the final report.
 - Vermont Housing and Conservation Coalition's annual legislative day will be held at the state house on Thursday, January 30.
5. Subgroup Reports: There were no reports

6. New Business: The committee discussed the draft report and made suggestions for edits. Chamness will compile edits and committee members will continue to share suggestions through the weekend. Redmond will present the draft report at the January 21st Selectboard Meeting.
Chamness shared that he has accepted a job offer in Burlington and will be moving. He will submit his resignation to the Town Manager and the Selectboard.
7. Meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.