Minutes - DRAFT

Affordable Housing Committee Meeting

South Portland Planning & Development
496 Ocean Street
June 29, 2020

Attendees
Kara AuClair
Mike Duvernay
Mike Hulsey
Shahida Keen
Justin Barker, staff
Joshua Reny, staff
Milan Nevajda, staff
Rob Liscord, guest speaker

Absent:
Marie Pineo
Brent Wilson

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:09 pm

2. Rob Liscord, Pine Tree Legal, introduced himself. He discussed the upcoming workshop with Council on homelessness. He noted there may be a potential ad-hoc committee. The committee asked what role they can play, and what are lessons learned from communities with high homelessness. Rob noted that some of existing problems are easily identified, but can be difficult to tackle. This is not simply an affordable housing problem, but housing of all types. There are some global, but some community-based solutions.

3. Annual report – it was noted to remove Landry Village from the in progress section. This project has been delayed for zoning reasons.

4. AHTF Manual discussion – Staff introduced a draft outline for the manual. There were questions about advertising the funds and what it looks like. The committee wants to ensure money goes to actual housing and there is no pay out option. The manual should include section about leveraging and coupling funds with other uses to be most effective, maybe under the type of funding section. Staff noted that loan apps may not go directly to committee, and this could be more complicated and will need some further investigation. The committee noted there should be clarity on process, it should be easy to understand and frame expectations. The potential for a subcommittee to meet more frequently was discussed. The fund finance process will be overseen by Finance Director, legal documents will be reviewed by Counsel prior to approval. The committee should be more proactive than reactive, and be deliberate about what we are doing. It was mentioned that there will likely not be a lot of time-sensitive situations that warrant a quick turnaround, but perhaps for micro loans.

5. Assign tasks (if needed) – No new tasks were assigned.

6. Roundtable – No comments.

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.