

Fair Housing Minutes
June 28, 2019
Mimi Hollister, Scribe

Present: Frank Evans, Chair, Debbie Larkin, Mimi Hollister, Joe Whipple
Guests: Judy Gates

Most of the meeting was debriefing on the Housing Production Plan Public Forum. Items and suggestions:

Notice of time and place was much too late to publicize well.

There should have been more Selectmen there than just Judy Jacobi, member of the HPP Committee.

At the next forum need to be sure representatives of most Town Committees should be there, especially Zoning Board, Planning Board, Building Inspector, Council on Aging.

Many issues overlap as we can see from the research thus far – the need for affordable senior housing, especially; the need to allow mother-in-law apartments in single family homes and other ways to create shared housing. Financial advice and assistance for seniors so that they can stay in their homes.

Need for flexibility and creativity because we don't have space for new construction.

Comments about the Forum itself:

Excellent content. A more complete power point was presented than the handout that we were given.

Would have helped to have an "expert" at each table in the break-out session. More structure and directive from the moderator would have helped to move things along and to focus better, such as "5 minutes for this question" and "time to move to the next question", etc.

The next Public Forum will be in late August or September. **Frank will get the format for the next one in advance for a Fair Housing Committee meeting** to prepare. We will not meet in July unless some good reason comes up. August will await more HPP input.

The Reporter covered the forum and should be written up next week.

Plans for the next forum:

Need a flier to be printed

Go on Wicked Local and various web sites such as the town web site and individual commission websites. Frank will check with the realty social media site.

Invitations from every committee member to their networks, friends, neighbors, etc.

Frank will talk with Alex, HPP staff person, about ideas for where to go with this info.

Judy Gates spoke of an organization called Age-Friendly (Community) such as Marblehead. They explore aspects such as housing, transportation, etc. What is working and what is needed. Since the HPP Study indicates that in Marblehead, seniors are the most affected, this would be very helpful.

