

**TOWN OF ESSEX / CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
JOINT HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of Wednesday, August 17, 2022**

City Representatives: Katie Ballard, Chair; Mia Watson, Clerk; Ta-Tanisha Redditta; Ned Daly.

Town Representatives: Mark Redmond, Emily Taylor

Staff: Darren Schibler, Town Planner.

Members of the Public: Jean MacBride, The Essex Reporter

1. CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA ADDITIONS / CHANGES

Ballard called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM. There were no proposed changes to the agenda.

2. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Ballard summarized the recent Vermont Community Leadership Summit, at which she was a panelist for the session “Implementing Local and Regional Housing Solutions.”

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Election of Clerk

Daly made a motion, seconded by Redditta, to elect Emily Taylor as Clerk of the Housing Commission for a term ending June 30, 2023. The motion passed 6-0.

b. Minutes

Daly made a motion, seconded by Redditta, to approve the minutes of July 20, 2022. The motion passed 6-0.

c. Housing Trust Fund Presentation

In preparation for meetings with the Essex Selectboard and Essex Junction City Council, Ballard and Schibler practiced their presentation on the Housing Trust Fund with the Housing Commission. They also solicited feedback on the draft Housing Trust Fund Policy. Commissioners suggested waiting to present the policy until it is more finalized, and also suggested refining the scope and potential uses of the Housing Trust Fund before bringing the idea to the Selectboard / City Council. More discussion on this will take place at the September 7 Housing Commission meeting.

d. Housing Development Projects Update

Schibler reviewed two housing development projects proposed within the Town: Section I of the Pinewood Manor neighborhood (a 34-unit Planned Unit

Development with both single-unit lots and triplexes), and 87 Pinecrest Drive (a 32-unit Planned Unit Development, nearly all duplexes, of which two units will be perpetually affordable in exchange for a 25% density bonus). The Commission provided comments on the projects, and authorized Ballard as chair to attend the Aug. 25th Town Planning Commission meeting to speak in favor of the Pinewood application. The Commission also discussed creating a task force to address the question of compliance monitoring for projects which include perpetually affordable dwelling units.

4. Reading File

There was no discussion on the reading file.

5. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:29pm.

Minutes prepared by Darren Schibler, Town Planner.