

MINUTES

Livable Communities Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2020 @ 7:00 pm
Seymour Town Hall - Flaherty Room

Members Present: Jennifer Behuniak, Saundra Gesek, Thomas LaPaglia, Elizabeth (Betty) Musto, and Chairman Suzanne Reilly.

1. Suzanne called the meeting to order @ 7:06 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** all present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Public comment:** None
4. A **Motion** was made by Jennifer to approve the December 19, 2019 meeting Minutes and 2nd by Tom. Motion carried.
5. **Members comments:** Suzanne will follow up with Teila Cheever from the Seymour Housing Authority to come and update us on the status of the Callahan House housing concerns and issues that are currently being encountered and confirm what date would be best for her to attend a meeting. Suzanne will also reach out to First Selectman Kurt Miller to come and speak with us to inform us as to what he envisions our Committee to focus on over the next year. The town's budget process has already begun, and we ought to consider if we'd want to propose funds for our continued work.

Suzanne did inquire and confirmed with Mary McNelis that Transportation would be provided for all age groups when the new Community Center bus arrives later this month. Specifically, the Food Bank was mentioned, and individuals that are not seniors are already being accommodated.

Saundra shared a copy of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, Regional Profile Shows Municipal Growth article that was published in the Voices January 8, 2020 edition noting specifically that "It's much more common for households to contain people living alone, cohabitating couples, married couples without children and single parents." "Overall, as the report notes, "The Naugatuck Valley has long benefited from strong local and regional leadership, effective economic development organizations and a well-trained workforce." The report also notes that the Valley is preparing for the years ahead, recognizing the need for sustainable, transportation-dependent communities that will stimulate economic growth in the region.

6. **New business:** Betty attended TEAM's Housing Forum that was held on January 16, 2020 at Villa Bianca, Seymour. It was well attended with over 200 in attendance. The Speakers included Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz. Patrick Charmel, Griffin Hospital, Joseph DiBacco, Ansonia Public Schools and Bill Purcell, Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce spoke of housing challenges and opportunities. Housing Solutions and Expert Array; Resources for Towns/Cities was led by an impressive list of State and local leaders. Betty shared some of the handouts including the housing trends that listed the total number of

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housing units by town, reported income-restricted affordable housing units, percentage of affordable housing units, town residents at or below the poverty level, percentage of residents below ALICE income levels, percentage of single family and multi-family housing in town, median household income, median home values and the Median monthly rent, % of those spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs, percent of homes in a town built since 1970, percentage increase/decrease in real property grand list 2008-2017, and CT State Data Center projected increase/decrease in age 5 - 19-year-old school-aged population by 2030 and the increase and decrease in age 65 and older population by 2030 specific to Seymour and compared to the other local towns. The results of the Interactive Question and Answers. Liberty Bank, one of the sponsors of the event has announced Community organizing Mini-Grant Program that supports expenses related to community organizing to promote affordable housing development. Grants of up to \$2,000 would be made available and a maximum total of \$20,000 will be awarded in 2020.

7. **Old business:** Suzanne reported that she hasn't heard any news from First Selectman Kurt Miller regarding our Seymour Train Station concerns.
8. Prepared the **Agenda for Thursday, February 27, 2020** meeting. Suzanne will follow up with future speakers/presenters
9. **Public comment:** None
10. **A motion was made** by Betty and 2nd by Jennifer to **adjourn the meeting**. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by, **Suzanne Reilly, Chairperson**