



Council on Housing Stability
October 24, 2023
10:30 PM – 12:00 PM

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Eric Adams

Patte Ardizzoni

Mayor Jim Bouley

George N. Copadis

Rob Dapice

Maria Devlin

Mayor George Hansel

Christina Dotson

Melissa Hatfield

Mayor Andrew Hosmer

Katy Easterly Martey

Warren Perry

Chris Santaniello

Miles Whitner

Dominique Rust

Andrew Dorsett

Drew Holmes

Mandy Lancaster

Maggie Pritchard

Rob Dapice

Robert Quinn

Senator James Gray

Rob Rodler

Anne Duncan Cooley

Robert Mack

Chris Santaniello welcomed all Council members. The Council on Housing Stability's meeting minutes on September 21, 2023, were unanimously approved

Annual Report/Year in Review - Katy Easterly Martey invited comments from Council members on the 2023 Annual Report and Year-in-Review.

Comments included the following:

- It would be helpful to document how much money was secured in 2023 to support the Council's initiatives in the Annual Report and The Year in Review document.
 - Is the number a good number?
 - This needs to be documented across both files.
 - What did we do with it/what we will do with it?
 - i.e., Winter Sheltering: Document how much money was received
- Reconcile any differences between an annual report and year-in-review
- Quantify the work
- Objective #2: Use ARP funds to create. . . Capture ARP amount.
- #8 in Objective #2: Reduce zoning barriers: Define which 13 communities that we helped
- In the future, aspirations: Increase staffing, and we will assess the impact of that investment.
- Objective #5/Granite leaders: Give an example of a leadership role.
- Ensure that data and lived experience guide everything that we have worked on.
- Document funding in 2022 vs. 2023 to highlight effectiveness.
 - We are using data to make decisions.
 - Use existing reporting systems to illustrate the impact - and explore the broader idea of quantifying work.
- Funding: What projects have been completed with Federal funding that will be disappearing?
- Fair Share Analysis: We should note that this was funded through the Council between CDFA and BEA (which helped coordinate that work)
- Annual Report: Add metrics #projects funded with Invest NH dollars, #units funded with InvestNH dollars.

The Council unanimously approved the Annual Report with the changes outlined above. Caroline will make the updates and send the final version out to the members.

What is next? Katy Easterly Martey discussed the Council's upcoming work in 2024, including:

- Evaluating successes
- Establishing sustainability
- Developing a new strategic plan (3 years)
- Establishing a Communications Workgroup (Maria Devlin, Noah, Kadyja, Bob, and Melissa to email Caroline ideas or meet with Tom DeRosa)
 - Draft a press release of the Annual Report
 - Communicate the release of the Annual Report
- Presenting to the Housing Caucus (Katy and Chris)
- Invite the Housing Caucus and welfare administrators to present to the Council
- Develop a coordination of ideas
- Establish a strategic plan workgroup: Create a strategic plan (including the most impactful legislative timing, sustainability, and membership)
- Reflect on legislative proposals in the three-year plan.
 - The Housing Caucus will seek to align objectives with policy proposals.

- Ben and Rob would happily serve on the legislative sub-group, including Maggie.
- Council Representation: Do we have the right number of landlords? Should we include NHLA?
- Evaluate and fill vacancies and determine the structure

2024 Calendar

- Maintain an awareness of school vacation weeks
- Determine what we are planning to cover in each of the meetings.
- Distribute 2024 Calendar at the next meeting

Legislative Update - Please reference Elissa Margolin's presentation [here](#)

- House Special Committee on Housing
 - Active policy committee in the 2024 session
 - Members are proposing bills to expand **ADU dwelling unit** capacity.
 - Right now, it is only attached.
 - The new legislation will allow detached.
 - **Driveway**: Timeline for approving permitting to support increased housing development (30-day approval). It was noted that the 30-day approval process may make it easier for DOT to say no. Make sure that the dept. has the resources it needs to handle the applications
 - Update **Septic** standards at DES
 - Chairman Alexander: Clarifying **manufactured housing statute** to align with manufactured housing
 - Representative Damien: Working with building code official chairs and state fire marshall - **sprinklers** would no longer be needed for small-scale work
- Does the Senate or the House have any bills the Housing Caucus is interested in?

How have criminal records impacted access to housing?

- How do we, as a Council, identify ways to invite change?
- We must be more aware of those trying to get back on the right track.
- As an outlier, you will do anything to survive - > That is where the problems are.
- Is there more interest on the housing side for these records?
 - Can we see what these requests are for?
 - How much are these records being accessed?
 - The Department of Safety (DOS) will look at the requests.
 - How can we elevate this?
- Ben Frost noted that federally assisted housing is misunderstood, and there is misinformation.
 - Public housing is based on state law but is federally funded.
 - Any agency administering a housing choice needs a policy for addressing criminal records. There is flexibility in designing the policy.
 - Approximately half of New Hampshire's housing vouchers are issued through New Hampshire Housing - there is a lot of flexibility in executing the standards.
 - There is a 5-year lookback.
- Barriers to occupancy include:
 - 1. Sex offender registry
 - 3. Convicted of producing Methadone in federally assisted housing

- HUD (April) Secretary Fudge issued an overhaul to examine what they were doing with criminal records
- Individualized assessment - each applicant should be evaluated individually. Tenancy of rehabilitation
- Other obstacles to securing housing include:
 - On parole, you need an approved home plan to be discharged.
 - Inmates facing prison release have a 'maximum date' by which they must leave the prison. If they don't have housing and reach their maximum date - they immediately become homeless.
 - Housing Costs: i.e., \$1350 for a single bed in a rooming house
 - Section 8 Restrictions
 - Treatment program admissions availability
 - Cost of living
 - Social stigma around individual criminal convictions, including arson, drugs, and sex offenses

Time will be allocated to this subject to explore this topic in greater detail.

- What is the truth?
- What are some potential solutions?
- Where are we stuck?
- How do we create an opportunity to re-enter successfully into society?
- Potential Workgroup Participants: Andrew Holmes, Robert Quinn, Ben Frost, Christine Shea
- ACTION STEPS
 - Look at what other states are doing.
 - Seek out someone from criminal records.
 - Present how the Council can support the ongoing work.
 - Chris Schyler to hear the conversation.