



CITY OF BIDDEFORD

Planning and Development Department

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Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: February 22, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: REMOTE ACCESS MEETING (1MRSA § 403-A permits public proceedings through remote access during the declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19).

Committee Members in Attendance:

Doris Ortiz (Chair), Martin Grohman, Daniel P. Boucher, Shirley Bowen, Ciel Caldwell, Dominic J. Deschambault, Seth Harkness & Ian Garcia-Grant

Staff Present: Mathew Eddy, James Bennett, Alan Casavant

- Thoughtful ideas about housing in Biddeford
 - Costs of gentrification
 - Balance outcome/don't leave folks behind
 - Quality of life, pride & identity
- The real challenges are to find contractors/workforce to upgrade
- Housing demand exceeds supply
- Zoning Ordinance contributes to sprawl
- There is interest in a more urban use of growth area. become more transit/people are moving
- Cannot get service unless you have resources & money.
- There are a large amount of homeless people who have never been homeless
- Interest in tiny houses or boarding house options.
- Onslaught of demand as a private landlord; troubled by saying no; encouraged in renewed interest
- More policies like height & density bonuses.
- Streamline the processes.
- Anecdotal info
- Gap between cost of ownership and supply of housing; cost of housing & housing education, City housing ordinances & cost
- Assessment issues
- Apartments that have been added-supply & demand issue
- Tracking people who are moving in from away-the Mill District
- Transaction from people from away the last two years
- Definition of range of affordable housing-glossary of definitions
- Section 8, rules and reasons for being so unappealing to landlords
- Status of section 8 requirements
- Waiting list for housing voucher is up to 10 years

- **“Section 8” negative connotations and attitudes from the community**
- **Educate the the community**
- **Attainable housing**
- **The next meeting will be hybrid on March 29, 2022 from 5:30-7:00 details to follow.**

Task Force Chair

Date

These minutes are summary and are not intended to be verbatim. Archived meetings are viewable on the City’s website: www.biddefordmaine.org.