

EGREMONT HOUSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by chairman Fred Gordon. Attending were committee members Richard Allen, Judi Goodman, Fred Gordon, Bruce Kafenbaum, Elizabeth Keen and Doug Mishkin. Also attending for all or part of the meeting were June Wolfe of Construct, Inc., Mary McGurn of the Planning Board and Egremonters James DiPisa, Liz Wilson and Marcia Arland.

Minutes of the meeting of December 21 were approved unanimously.

June Wolfe gave an extensive report on the status of affordable housing in south Berkshire County, stating generally that the environment for affordable housing was favorable and attitudes toward affordable housing were better. She said there were many projects under consideration or construction, and that, while construction costs are still high, they show signs of stabilizing. She noted that there are significant available funding sources, although almost all of them are for rental housing, not ownership. Several committee members asked questions and made comments.

Fred Gordon and Mary McGurn explained that Egremont is in the early stage of potentially applying through the state's "Community One Stop for Growth" portal for consulting and site development funds for affordable housing on town-owned property. Egremont's Planning Board is also recommending applying through this portal for funds to determine the best approach to providing such housing. Preliminary applications are due February 4, and full applications are due in June 2022, with award notifications announced in October or November.

Doug Mishkin reported that the RFP subcommittee was one draft away from submitting a revised draft RFP. A discussion about the draft RFP followed. Several committee members again stressed the importance of making the RFP as open and flexible as possible in order to attract as many possible bidders as possible, especially since many of the potential bidders were unlikely to view the Egremont project favorably.

Doug Mishkin said the subcommittee could produce a draft RFP for consideration by the full committee within one week. Based thereon, the committee set Tuesday, February 1 at 5:00 as the date and time for the next meeting of the committee.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.