



Town Of Amenia

4988 Route 22, AMENIA, NY 12501
(845) 373-8860 x 106 Fax (845) 373-9147

8th Mtg Minutes (via Zoom) – 13 October 20 5:30pm - Amenia Housing Board

Attended: Leo Blackman, Tracy Salladay, Erica Doyle, P.D. Gutierrez, Vicki Doyle
Absent: Nina Peek, Joy Johnson, Jeff Barnett Winsby, James Morris

Discussion of agenda items:

1. Covid Panel - response of those who attended?
Leo was the only one who attended. Focus was cost pressure on housing due to urban flight.
2. HRH revolving fund - Sam's edits
Leo explained relationship between HRH & AHB. No comments on Fund document.
3. Our online survey & to-each-resident postcard
Leo discussed need to complete survey format/postcard text asap, so can get out to residents. Damian offered to raise at this week's Town Board meeting. Intent to try and get approval for costs of printing/distribution. Vicki will contact Fountain Press again re costs. Leo said should be brief and inviting. Graphic designer needed. We think Jeff had volunteered – if not Vicki said printer can provide. Ideally will go out sometime in mid-November. Damian thought Town Clerk could give out & collect paper copies of survey, for those w/out PC. Tracy suggested having 10 post cards enlarged to 8 ½ x 11 to post at Freshtown, VFW Post, Health center, and contacting newspapers. Leo thought we should capture those who just work in Amenia (as employers were concerned about housing workers).
4. Accessory apartments – another option for workforce
Tracy sent all a link to news about small VT town's solution to affordable hsg. Set specific 5-year goal w/targeted # of units. She prepared a draft explanation of the Code provisions, but thought it was too technical. Leo agreed, and felt in future we might have another brief postcard mailing, with detailed information on Town website. Perhaps some financial incentives for construction?
5. Dutchess County Dept of Planning - what help they might provide us
*Leo noted he, Vicki & Tracy had reviewed previous Town Plans (some kicked off by DCDP) and found their recommendations (affordable housing, denser downtown, sewer, pedestrian friendly, preserve farmland) were consistent over 40 yrs. Asked if we should ask DCDP to look at all that (+ DOT complete streets) and make recommendations for how we can best make use of all that data. Damian thought it made sense to “go big”, and ask them for overall improvement strategy.
*Tracy said that TND website no longer has standards we refer to in Code – ask DCDP what new?**



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6. Amenia Town Board - at what point should we get on their agenda
Leo asked how best to provide update? Damian was concerned that to create housing we will need not only results from our survey, but a thoughtful process for getting the community on board. That will likely require a planner lead us through. He suggested we pitch that idea, so can start grant-seeking process. Meantime, permission to use Town's planner to answer questions?
7. Development - discuss inviting NFP & FP developers to attend a future meeting?
To gauge what would make Amenia appealing for creation of workforce & mixed use housing, Leo wondered if we should ask some developers in to talk about their experience. Jeff & Joy have both been involved in housing, so it would be easy to start with them. Jeff had suggested Allan Co, and Anne - Kearney Realty, so maybe invite to future meeting. Tracy - local realtors?
8. Other business?
Damian said he had some housekeeping matters to bring up. First, that at the last TB meeting, after some research, it was determined that we were a Board, not a committee. Members are required to serve 7 years, but on a rotating basis (one leaves each year), so we need to all select expiration dates for our terms. Leo noted that Lorenzo had resigned from Housing Board, so we will need to find a replacement.
9. Minutes 08 Sept meeting
Approved unanimously.

Zoom Meeting began at 5:35pm, and cut off at 6:30pm.

Our next HB meeting is scheduled for Tue 10 Nov 5:30.

Submitted by Leo Blackman, Chair