

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
SPRINGFIELD INCLUSION COMMITTEE – SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP

Springfield Town Library, 2nd Floor
43 Main Street, Springfield, VT 05156
Thursday, August 4, 2022 5:30 p.m.

FINAL, APPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.
Present in person: Char Osterlund, Susan Dowdell, pattrice jones, Walter Martone and Brandon Gulnick
Present via zoom: Jules O’Guin,
Not present: Charis Boke
2. **Additions/Subtractions to the Agenda:** none
3. **Public Comment:** no public present
4. **Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort**
It was recommended that the committee use VLCT services/resources instead of moving forward with the cohort. It was noted that the library ordered some of the books on the VLCT resource list and would be willing to host programs based on the resources. No recommendations will be made to the select board on the cohort.
5. **Housing Broad Aims/Areas of Investigation – Ensure housing is accessible and inclusive**
 - a. Ensure the town does everything it can do to lessen the likelihood of *housing discrimination*
 - b. Explore *Housing standards/conditions* and role of health officer
 - c. *Tenants’ rights* including ways to educate and ways tenants can report issues to the town health officer
 - d. Increase the number of rental units (housing scarcity) as the *amount of available housing* impacts housing discrimination.
 - e. Increase the number of *accessible* rental units
 - f. Explore issues of the *unhoused* population
6. **Housing: Identify research tasks to be undertaken**
 - a. Housing discrimination
 - i. what currently exists in terms of protections
 - ii. What the town can do in terms of discrimination
 - iii. Community research regarding how much discrimination is currently happening
 - b. Housing standards / Rental standards – need to identify current state standards
 - c. Tenants’ rights
 - i. Fair Housing education for landlords and tenants – what’s available
 - ii. Is there a Statewide tenants’ rights handbook?
 - iii. It was noted that the town has had a rental registry that began a few years ago, but landlords have not regularly updated their information
 - d. Amount of housing – no research tasks at this time
 - e. Accessibility
 - i. How many accessible units are in town?

- ii. Research funding sources for landlords to make rental units more accessible (grant programs)
- f. Barriers/Challenges of the Unhoused – gather information from those experiencing homelessness
- 7. Housing: Assign initial tasks to committee members**
 - a. Walter will contact the Housing Authority to find out process for ensuring non-discrimination and get more info on VT Housing Improvement program
 - b. Brandon and Walter – health officer job description – reach out with other towns
 - c. Char – get state housing standards and tenants / landlords rights
- 8. Housing: Develop due dates for initial tasks and overall timeline** – report back at August 17th meeting regarding information received thus far
- 9. Adjournment** – Char motion to adjourn, Walter seconded, all approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Dowdell