

Subject to Approval

**MADISON AD HOC AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

April 8, 2021

A meeting of the Ad Hoc Affordable Housing Plan Advisory Committee was conducted Thursday April 8, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., remotely, using Zoom Videoconferencing. The public was invited to participate remotely by joining the meeting through a Zoom webinar link. Log-in details were posted to the Town of Madison website (<https://www.madisonct.org/>), prior to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairwoman Sarah Mervine, Vice Chairwoman Erin Duques, Andrea Aron, Rosalyn Fahey, Chad Greenlee, Mathew Keller, and Peter Roos.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chad Greenlee

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Anderson, Heather Noblin

The meeting of the Ad Hoc Affordable Housing Plan Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. by Chairwoman Sarah Mervine.

Today the committee was joined by Liza Petra, Executive Director of the Guilford Foundation (GF) and Mary Jo Kestner formally of GF and an architect in Guilford. They were asked to share their experience in educating the Guilford public on the need for Affordable Housing (AF) and why it should be attractive to a town like Guilford/Madison to have availability of AF.

The process for Guilford started in 2012 with an AF survey presented to the voters of Guilford. Outreach efforts were also made to bring local leaders/prominent citizens together to begin the discussion and education process. Additionally, a video was created in 2016 that featured citizens and local leaders of Guilford explaining why they need AF and why it is such a powerful tool for building a cohesive and inclusive town.

After this initial outreach, the town also did a parcel study and identified seven locations for potential suitability for AF. At this juncture one AF housing development (16 units) is going up on Whitfield Street near the railroad station. There was a good deal of education necessary to dispel AF myths to get this project up and running. Both guests argued that continual education and communication is needed so that impacted parties do not feel blindsided. The goal is to “bring the community along with us.”

Guilford is embarking on its own AF ad-hoc committee although it will be called Housing for Economic Development. Both speakers indicated a willingness to continue to engage with our ad-hoc committee since we really face the same challenges and obstacles.

Chairwoman Mervine adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Roos