

## Stowe Housing Task Force

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Akeley Memorial Building  
67 Main Street  
Stowe, Vermont



**Housing Task Force Members:** MacKee Macdonald, Walter Frame, Sarah Henshaw, Ken Braverman, Stefan Grundmann, Josi Kytte, Scott Coggins, Town Manager Charles Safford (Ex officio)

**Attendees:** Assistant Town Manager Will Fricke, Mila Lonetto, Eric Skinger, Heather Snyder, Jeff Jackson

### Call to Order

Town Manager Charles Safford called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

### Member Introductions

Members of the Housing Task Force introduced themselves and explained their motivation for applying for the Task Force.

### Election of Officers

Charles Safford took nominations for Chair. One nomination was received for McKee Macdonald. No other nominations were received.

McKee Macdonald moved to elect McKee Macdonald as Chair. Ken Braverman seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Chair Macdonald took nominations for Vice Chair. One nomination was received for Walter Frame. No other nominations were received.

Walter Frame moved to elect Walter Frame as Vice Chair. Sarah Henshaw seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

### Meeting Schedule

Sarah Henshaw moved to establish the regular meeting schedule of the Housing Task Force as the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9:00am, with the goal of ending by 10:30am and a hard stop at 11:00am, and with the location being the Akeley Memorial Building, commencing on August 21, 2024. Josie Kytte seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

Sarah Henshaw suggested regular agenda items to assist with agenda setting.

### Town Of Stowe and State of Vermont Policies and Procedures for Appointed Boards and Commissions

Charles Safford reviewed with the Housing Task Force the Town of Stowe's Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy, Declaration of Inclusion, and the State of Vermont Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law.

### Housing Task Force Role and Goals

Charles Safford reviewed with the Housing Task Force the Housing Task Force charge statement adopted by the Selectboard. Stefan Grundmann asked how the HTF would work in coordination with the Selectboard. Charles Safford said the Selectboard would like the HTF to come back periodically with status reports, once per quarter. He also said the Selectboard expects the HTF to engage with a qualified consultant to help with the data analysis, recommendations and cost/benefit analysis; the expectation is not that the Task Force does this all on their own.

The Housing Task Force discussed whom they would like to invite to present at their meetings, including Downstreet Housing and Community Development, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Lamoille County Planning Commission, the Planning Commission, and Town of Stowe staff.

Ken Braverman said that he is concerned they may spend a lot of time gathering data and focusing on a problem they already know exists rather than spending time focusing on solutions. McKee Macdonald said they need something they can clearly act on, so they justify action because of what they found in data. Charles Safford said it will also be important to prioritize any recommendations and decide how to use the limited resources of the Town, as Vermont is not a home-rule state, and resources are limited to what the state allows. They need to determine what the role of the Town is. Josi Kyle said it would also be important for the Task Force to communicate and articulate their recommendations.

Charles Safford said staff will start working on a draft RFP for the Task Force's review and will invite the groups mentioned to come to future meetings. He said they will post links to recordings on their meetings online.

The Housing Task Force decided to invite Downstreet Housing, Lamoille Housing Partnership, and Lamoille County Planning Commission to their next meeting. They said they want to ask about their mission, the housing landscape they see within Lamoille County, how Stowe fits into that, and what their solutions are and what Stowe can do to assist or fit into those solutions.

### **Public to be Heard Non-Binding**

Heather Snyder said the Task Force should review Harry Shepard's recent presentations to the Planning Commission on water and sewer.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Macdonald adjourned the meeting at 4:34pm.

### **Notes**

Minutes submitted by Will Fricke.

The Stowe Housing Task Force meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 9:00am.

A recording of this public meeting is available at: <https://www.townofstowevt.org/housing-task-force>