

To: Stowe Selectboard
From: McKee Macdonald, Chair, Stowe Housing Task Force
Date: September 25, 2024
Subject: Housing Task Force Quarterly Report to Selectboard

I am pleased to provide the Selectboard with the first Housing Task Force Quarterly Report, as required by the Housing Task Force charge statement.

The Housing Task Force has held four meetings. They established their regular meeting schedule as the first and third Wednesday of the month at 9:00am in the Akeley Memorial Building. Attendance has been nearly perfect and HTF members have modified their schedule to accommodate the regular meetings. Minutes, recordings, and meeting packets are posted online at <https://www.townofstovevt.org/housing-task-force>.

The HTF held their first meeting on August 7. They reviewed Town of Stowe policies, including the code of ethics and conflict of interest policy, and the declaration of inclusion. Vermont open meeting law and the public records act was also reviewed. The meeting concluded with a discussion of the charge statement and the role and goals of the Housing Task Force.

On August 21, the Task Force hosted Seth Jensen, LCPC Deputy Director, who presented the Lamoille County/Hardwick Regional Housing Assessment as well as recent changes made to Act 250. The Task Force also reviewed a draft of the Stowe Housing Needs Assessment RFP, and made edits and suggestions for staff.

Lucy Leriche of Lamoille Housing Partnership and Angie Harbin of Downstreet Housing and Community Development joined the Task Force for the meeting on September 4. They and the Task Force had an in-depth discussion on the challenges and opportunities in effectuating Affordable housing in Stowe. The Task Force also approved the release of the Stowe Housing Needs Assessment RFP at this meeting.

At the September 18 meeting, Sarah McShane, Stowe Planning & Zoning Director, and Mila Lonetto, Planning Commission ex-officio member of the Housing Task Force, gave a presentation on the existing zoning regulations and map, the Stowe Town Plan, and recent housing legislation. They explained the implications of Act 47 and Act 250, recent zoning amendments, and discussed potential future zoning amendments, projects, and collaboration opportunities. At this meeting, staff reported an overall positive response to the RFP from potential consultants.

Thank you, and let me know if you have any additional questions.

Stowe Housing Task Force

McKee Macdonald, Chair
Walter Frame, Vice Chair
Sarah Henshaw
Josi Kytle
Scott Coggins
Stefan Grundmann
Ken Braverman