

Senior Housing Work Group
City of Oneonta Housing Commission
26 September 2022 Meeting
Draft Meeting Notes

Present: Nicole Blanchard, Bob Brzozowski, Angie Eichler, Ellen Fallin, Peter Friedman, Andrea Ronovech

Absent: Rachel Jessup, Tamie Reed

The meeting began at 7:05 PM.

The Senior Housing Work Group members introduced ourselves.

Mayor Drnek spoke about the Housing Commission and its Work Groups. He said that efforts are underway to establish ways for the work groups to keep in touch with each other. After some Q&A, he left the meeting for another engagement.

Nicole was elected Chair.

We discussed our priorities as a work group.

Nicole is heading a Bassett needs assessment study for Otsego County. The data should be useful to us. One thing she mentioned is that the city of Oneonta is unusual statewide for its high percentage of very low and very high income households.

We discussed what the definition of *senior* is for our work group. 50? 55? 65? Seems it depends on the context, including the availability of grant funding.

Peter spoke to the need to rewrite city Codes that may be detrimental to new building projects.

Peter, Andrea, and Nicole spoke about tiny home or cottage projects that they've seen elsewhere.

Ellen and Bob brought up the need for programs for “aging in place”. Bob suggested looking at successful programs in other locales – such as multi-generational homes and programs that provide senior homeowners with household help for an annual fee (such as Beacon Hill Village).

Several entities and projects were brought up that could be helpful to us: Housing Visions; OFO; possible projects at the Armory, St. Mary’s Parish Center, and the Oneonta Hotel; the Otsego Land Trust; SUNY Delhi, BOCES, etc.

We decided that our first priority is to look at infrastructure (Codes, transportation, etc.) and the current housing supply in the city before focusing on specific projects.

Bob will contact City Clerk Kerri Harrington about the availability of a room in City Hall at 6 or 6:30 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during the two weeks before the regularly scheduled Housing Commission meeting (currently on the second Wednesday of the month).

Bob will ask the Mayor for an updated contact list of all the members of the seven work groups.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Meeting notes taken by Bob.