

SENIOR HOUSING FOCUS GROUP MEETING
COMMENTS RECORDED FROM PARTICIPANTS
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023

1 a. What aspects of your current home are you concerned about or aware will be a challenge as you get older?

Stairs

Affordability

Maintenance: roof repair, yard upkeep, snow removal, plumbing; plus trying to find people to do the work (that are also qualified, reliable, trustworthy and affordable)

Transportation: distance to drive, proximity to public transportation

Home Health Care: shortage of workers, lack of delivery service for groceries and pharmacy

Modifications to home: removing bathtub for walk-in shower, making it more accessible, adding grab bars and other safety features, possible ramp

Where would I relocate to?

1 b. What expense or costs make affordability a challenge?

Property taxes

- Make sure people are aware of STAR and Enhanced STAR

Maintenance costs - Replacing furnace or roof

Indoor and outdoor upkeep: pay someone, finding someone to do it

Extra insurance costs for environmental mandates

Increased rents: for mobile home lots, housing

Cost of home modifications – especially big projects like a bathroom remodel or needing a ramp

1 c. What specifically, would help to address these challenges?

Low interest grants

Loans for maintenance not income-based

STAR/Enhanced STAR

Tax relief for home improvements

Classes to help people understand current issues: scams, enrolling in health insurance and drug plans

Positive relationship with the City to help with mowing and snow removal

Youth helping with outdoor work

Association fees/co-op/shared costs to help with expenses

Delivery of groceries and medications, transportation

Improved awareness of OFA services and what already exists (OPT Paratransit)

Better utilize OFA/NYConnects as the clearinghouse/one stop shop it's intended to be

Coalition of like-mindedness: serve as a clearing house, awareness of services, put helpful links on City's website, not stigmatized

Having a transportation system that supports grocery shopping or to senior center or other socialization such as church

Family living nearby or on same property to help out with costs, maintenance, day to day living

2 a. When considering moving to a smaller dwelling, what would this look like for you?

Private developer to take large city homes and turn them into senior housing

Rehabilitate buildings: upper floors on Main Street

Alleviate bureaucracy when finding funding

New buildings

Hillside Commons is a good option for seniors: good location (views), walkability, apartments, game room, no maintenance

Private apartments with different age occupancies: must have good construction with soundproof walls, allows for intergenerational relationships, occupants need to buy into it

The Plains: expensive

Address housing for middle income individuals

Affordable ranch house

New housing development: small house village, find individual(s) interested in developing

Availability of communal living such as townhouses that have universal design (already accessible) – have privacy and independence, but have availability of shared services

One level and small in size

Sunny and bright – not dreary

Good location – near shopping, doctors and services

Off-street parking or near public transportation

Support network

Shared services to help with home maintenance

2 bedroom on one level with a small yard, handicap accessible – not an apartment

“Tiny” house or similar to Habitat homes – small senior village

An apartment that has easy access to outdoor space, preferably with a garage so I don’t have to brush snow off car

Energy efficient so utility costs aren’t high

2 b. Would you prefer to rent or buy?

Mixed preferences

2 c. What would you consider to be “affordable” for this type of housing?

Purchasing an existing home: Less than \$200,000 for a house, \$150,000 - \$200,000 provides a house in good condition in our area

New housing: current sq. ft cost is \$200

Rental apartments are more expensive than a paid off mortgage: also, depends how many members of the household are contributing to the expenses

Rent: Under \$1000/month with utilities included, possibly on a sliding scale so accessible for all income levels

Would need to be subsidized since my income is only about \$1,400/month (30% = \$420)

2 d. Based on the housing that currently exists in Oneonta for “retirees”, what do you think is missing?

Single level of any type of dwelling

Easy access elevator if multi-level

Non-subsidized apartments

Middle income options

Economic value of seniors living in the city

One-story affordable apartments that are located in a walkable area near services and/or transportation

Need to update the existing apartments (pretty soon they will be slums)

Would like to have dishwasher and laundry units in existing space (apartment)

Apartment living is a big jump from SFH – many people don’t adjust well – can hear through walls, “on top of others”, etc – Need other options besides attached complexes

Adequate number of aides to provide care at home

Need more retirement communities

Other comments:

Historic tax credit

Less bureaucracy in everything

Need to figure out how to get information to people better to increase awareness of what services are already available (OFA, eligibility for existing senior housing complexes, OPT Paratransit, etc)