

Town of Long Island
Year-Round Housing Committee
Minutes 1/31/07

Present: Mark Greene (Chair); Ruth Peterson (Selectman); Steve Train (Selectman); Tammy Hohn; Tom Hohn; Will Tierney; Amy Tierney; Katie Wegner; Jonathan Norton; Alden Robinson (Island Institute Fellow).

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Old business:

1. The committee agreed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as read. Mark will submit them to the upcoming issue of the *Long Islander* to help raise awareness of these housing issues.
2. The committee discussed the proposed cover letter to be sent with the upcoming housing survey. It was agreed that the specifics of a housing project proposal should not appear in the cover letter. Mark will send out an updated version.
3. The committee discussed the survey to be sent to year-round and seasonal residents.
 - a. It was suggested that the survey avoid asking directly whether respondents support year-round housing efforts on Long Island, and instead ask whether respondents think it is important for the island to have young families living on it, and also whether they know of anyone who has had to leave the island for lack of housing.
 - b. It was suggested that survey question #4 provide brief descriptions of housing possibilities and ask respondents to rank them by their suitability to the island.
 - c. It was suggested that one survey question ask whether respondents would support housing efforts on Long Island if those efforts had no tax-impact. Steve Train said it was possible that selling town land for housing would actually reduce taxes.
 - d. It was suggested that the survey ask whether respondents could afford to buy the home they own now, if that home were on the market today.
 - e. The committee agreed to go through the surveys individually and compare changes before the next meeting.

New business:

1. The committee briefly discussed ownership models. Mark Greene stressed that simply living on the island, even in rented housing, is often crucial to successfully owning a house here, as it is much easier to stay informed of available houses and land coming to market. If stable, dedicated, rental housing were available, it could be the least costly option until families are certain they want to buy here and have saved towards that option.
2. The committee received copies of the Island Institute's affordable housing reports for Maine islands, including Islesboro, North Haven, Frenchboro, Cranberry Islands, Monhegan, Vinylhaven, and Isle Au Haut for more detailed study of housing initiatives being carried out elsewhere.
3. The committee viewed a DVD produced by the Genesis foundation, which provided an overview of some affordable housing projects in the Midcoast and Down East and the role the Genesis Foundation can play in financing island needs.
4. The committee discussed the mechanics of sending the surveys to year-round residents and planned to work from the list of registered voters and add or remove people depending on whether they really live here full-time. It was agreed that all residents 18 and over would get their own survey even if it meant several copies per household. Seasonal residents would get one per household, but could certainly add divergent opinions if more than one per household wished to respond.
5. The committee discussed sending letters to the *Long Islander*. It was agreed to ask Cade Brown to send a version of his previous email to the *LongIslander*.
6. The committee agreed to meet at the same time next week and work on the surveys to get them ready to send out. Members should bring in specific proposed changes to the surveys and cover letter so that they may be finalized. This will be the major task of this meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:25