

Minutes of CDICR Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)  
Jan. 15, 2020  
Denny Room

This meeting served as a meeting for the Housing Affordability Stakeholders coalition meeting that the CDICR AHC is co-sponsoring with the Brookline HAB. There were 21 people attending, including the members of the AHA (Batchelder, Chicco, Lancourt, Lawrence, and Lepson). In addition to the CDICR AHC, and the HAB sponsors (Klein and Raitt), constituencies represented included Climate Action, BCAN, LWV, Disability Commission, BIC, BPH, Brookline for Everyone, Brookline Mental Health Center, and Transportation.

It was agreed that the need for affordable housing is not just an issue, but a confluence of crises. It was also suggested that henceforth, we refer to the issue as Housing Affordability rather than Affordable Housing: how we label and frame things matters.

In answer to the question, Who is the target audience for our Educational Forum? we brainstormed and then discussed the following list:

Town Meeting Members	Neighborhood Associations
Select Board	Business Community
Town Depts.	School Committee
Advisory Committee	PTOs
Affordable Housing Allies	Public Housing residents
People who are struggling to find housing	

While no definitive decision was made, the importance of being able to educate and influence TMMs/SB, and bring together a diverse group of Allies before the May Town Meeting was acknowledged, and there was general agreement that there would be multiple audiences.

Mention was made of the 2020 Census and its potential impact on the need for housing affordability, especially for family housing. There was a wide-ranging discussion of the following:

- the need to change people's hearts and minds
- a focus on the benefits of housing affordability to different constituencies
- describing the people who can and cannot afford to live here now
- issues of density and property values
- the need for multiple forums and audiences: the plan is to have 3 Forums, one in the Spring, one in early Fall, and one in early November. The forums would be a mix of education focused on understanding the complexities of increasing housing affordability and solutions that have worked in other places
- a picture of what is going on that has not been communicated or has been poorly communicated
- the need to build power by supporting real collaboration among and between multiple stakeholder constituencies

- the need to articulate the multiple constituencies (e.g. Transportation, Climate, Economic Development, Health, etc.) self interest in proactively supporting housing affordability and 'connect the dots'
- creating a clear definition of what is meant by Housing Affordability
- Articulating the narrative of how we got to be the way we are now (e.g. restrictive zoning, racism, NIMBY, state legislation re rent control, etc.)
- Crafting a strategy combining education and action

Next we addressed the issue of finding a date. After discussing multiple possibilities and acknowledging other calendar constraints (TM, WA hearings, town elections, etc.), we settled on Sunday afternoon, March 29, with a back-up of Sunday afternoon April 26.

Finally, we recognized the need to form several task forces to get the actual work of planning the Forum done. Three task forces will be formed: The Program TF, the Outreach TF, and the Logistics TF. An email will go out asap and people will respond naming which TF they want to be on, and suggestions for forming the TFs will be sent.

We set the next meeting of the Housing Affordability Stakeholders meeting for Wed. January 29, with the understanding that people would sign up for one of the TFs before the 29th, and that hopefully each of the TFs would have had a preliminary meeting before the 29th. In any event, there would be time on the agenda for the 29th for each of the groups to meet.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.