Notes from March 22, 2022 Housing Committee Meeting

The meeting began at 6:05 pm.

1—**Chairmanship**: Due to lack of a quorum, voting on the nomination of Linda Press Wolfe and Linda Rae to serve as Co-chairs was postponed until next month.

2—**Lewisboro Commons**: Jane reported that applications for rentals are due May 15, in order to enter the lottery, after which applicants will be screened to see who qualifies. The first units will be ready for occupancy in June, with the others to be completed by September.

Discussion followed on the need to educate our community on the availability of the new affordable housing. Jane sent a notice to Town Supervisor Tony Goncalves, who put it on Facebook; she will do a press release next for the Town to send out, including to the school district. Nedda suggested we also inform the fire depts. Adam said he had received 4 separate notices so far.

3—**Accessory Dwelling Units**: Jane said she has asked the Lewisboro Building dept. for the numbers of applications to create accessory apartments, to see if our changing the code in 2016 to allow such dwelling units without a “special use” permit from the Planning Board (but following stringent requirements) has resulted in increased applications. The committee discussed Linda Rae’s proposed text on the amendment to put on the housing website. Karen Conti suggested that it be revised with bullet points; Linda said she would revise, but with hyperlinks *[completed and posted on website subsequently]*.

4**—Monitoring Oakridge Middle Income Units:** Jane said the administration of the units has been fully transferred to the County, which will also send out our annual required survey to all owners. We will provide a) the Lewisboro income limits (based on median Lewisboro town employee total compensation); and b) the application, which needs updating (which she will do).

5—**Goals:** as part of our ongoing effort to redefine our goals, not updated since the Middle-Income program was established in the mid 1980’s, members have been reaching out to other town housing committees.

Linda R. reported on her conversation with the chair of Bedford’s Housing Committee, Tom McGrath: Bedford’s mission is “to administer fair and affordable housing created under the requirements of the Town’s Zoning Law.” The committee actively seeks out potential housing opportunities in their town, including investigating possible sites and bringing in developers. Bedford’s Blue Mountain Development Corp. allows Bedford a much bigger scope, as they are able to provide loans and funding if needed, and own the 4-unit Doyle house in Katonah which A-Home manages. A Blue Mountain Annual Report from a couple of years ago is available fyi.

Nedda Schoenfeld raised the need for housing for refugees and displaced people, who tend to be just “dumped” in a community (as a family from Afghanistan has been in Lewisboro recently), and asked how we could be more welcoming. Town Board Liaison Dan Welsh recognized the need to expand diversity and the number of affordable units, but cautioned that we need to go “one step at a time” with redefining our mission. Jane said there were quite a few organizations providing assistance with housing for refugees, and that she did not think it was something the Housing Committee should or could undertake at present.

The next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 26.