

Lewisboro Housing Committee (LHC) MEETING via ZOOM February 21, 2023

Present: Linda Press Wolfe, Linda Rae (co-chairs), Dan Welsh (Town Board Liaison); members Karen Conti, Nedda Schoenfeld. Guests Adam Ochs, Barbara Mangione.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

I. Lewisboro Commons visit

A tour of Lewisboro Commons for LHC members has been scheduled for March. The date might be changed. LHC members will be notified of new date(s).

II. A-Home model in Scotts Corners Pound Ridge

Members of the LHC toured the affordable senior living model residences in Pound Ridge and reported on their visit. The purpose-built units comprise two 2-story residential buildings, with three apartment units on each floor. Each apartment has a bedroom, living room, bathroom and “kitchenette” with a small refrigerator and microwave. Each floor shares a fully equipped kitchen with a separate full-size refrigerator for each unit, and a common living room. The apartments were approximately 600 square feet. All spaces were light and airy. Handicap accessible with wide hallways and an elevator in each of the two 2-story buildings. The buildings have common laundry facilities and back-up generators (which neighboring residents were able to use as “warming centers” during recent winter power outages). Pictures taken that day, with permission, and were shared with LHC members.

This is one creative type of multi-family residence that Lewisboro might want to consider where appropriate.

“Housing diversity” examples, such as the Scotts Corners, Pound Ridge model, could be shared with the public via post on the Town’s website, LHC page. Members volunteered to research other examples suitable for a semi-rural area such as Lewisboro.

III. Oakridge Survey

LHC has taken steps to ensure that the mandated Annual Survey will be completed and returned from the few outstanding owners/tenants who have not responded to previous attempts. We expect 100% compliance will be achieved.

IV. Governor Hochul’s Housing Proposal

Some of our state elected officials are reportedly opposed to Governor Hochul’s ambitious housing proposal for New York State. The plan, called the “New York Housing Compact,” would require that 800,000 units be constructed across the state over 10 years. The proposal calls for each municipality to meet a “target” of building new affordable housing representing 3% of existing housing stock.

A discussion ensued regarding how this might be implemented in Lewisboro, as the governor’s plan includes some elements that could potentially override environmental requirements thereby giving rise to home-rule and environmental concerns.

V. League of Women Voters Forum

The League of Women Voters is planning to hold a Zoom forum on March 15 with Assemblyman Chris Burdick on the New York Housing Compact.

VI. Comprehensive Master Plan Update for Lewisboro

LHC has shared its vision, mission and goals with the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee; further meetings and discussions with them may be necessary.

VII. LHC page on the Town website

Committee members have taken on the website update project and will regroup on separate occasions to continue their work.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 6PM via Zoom

Meeting was adjourned at 6:49 pm

Minutes taken by NS