

Town of Princeton
Town Plan Implementation Committee
May 1, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were members Leslie Fanger, Michael Latka, Anne Littlefield and Dennis Rindone. Also present were Jim LaChance, Phil Stone, Rick McCowan, Mary Trostel, Barbara Clark from the Town Plan Housing Element Committee.

Minutes:

The committee unanimously (4-0) accepted the minutes of 3/27/08.

Housing:

Chairman Latka welcomed the five members of the Town Plan Housing Element Committee before they joined us in a housing discussion. Chairman Latka outlined the housing issues that remained to be implemented in the town plan and proposed that a housing element subcommittee for the TPIC be organized to address those and other issues related to housing that have arisen over the course of the town plan review and approval. Mr. Latka asked whether the volunteers that worked on the town plan had any interest on serving on such a committee. After hearing that the housing subcommittee attendees felt that they were content with the findings of the town plan study and that they felt the findings were not dated or needed further study except for one issue outlined below, the formation of a housing subcommittee with either members of the town plan housing element or other housing related town committee members in town, such as historical preservation or elder housing advocates, builders, developers and resident volunteers, the formation of the subcommittee was tabled for the time being. The two members of the housing element that sit on the Planning Board stated that they felt that the Planning Board could handle the regulatory recommendations concerning housing yet to be implemented without further assistance for the TPIC. Specifically, accessory apartments and multi-family housing zoning amendments were thought to be ready to go to town meeting later this year or early next year and would address conditions that already exist in Princeton and/or provide housing options for the town. The one issue that Mr. McCowan raised that needed further study and assistance in getting implemented was the mixed-use zoning proposal in the town plan for East Princeton. Mr. McCowan felt that the issue needed more technical and residential input and additional gathering of support for passage. He also felt that with the Route 140 corridor planning study getting underway, it would be appropriate and timely to undertake this effort. The current market conditions were raised by several attendees since the conditions reduced the development pressure in town for more housing, affordable or otherwise. Although anecdotal comments were made regarding empty nester or downsizing decisions impacting townspeople, no formal actions were deemed appropriate or necessary and that the market would decide the path housing diversity would take in town in the foreseeable future. With that sentiment expressed by several of the housing element attendees, Mr. Latka thanked the guests for joining the TPIC discussion and all five attendees left.

Community Preservation Act and Land Preservation

Both items were tabled for future discussion

Future Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for May 27th at 7 pm in the town hall conference room.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Rindone
Town Administrator