

COMMUNITY HOUSING COMMITTEE
TOWN OF SUDBURY

Mission Statement

It is the intention of the Selectmen, in creating a permanent Community Housing Committee, to provide a mechanism for the Town to facilitate community housing efforts and creating methods for increasing and maintaining the availability of housing for people with low to middle income. To that end, in furtherance of the Master Plan and goals of the Board of Selectmen, the Community Housing Committee will work closely with all Town boards, committees, and departments which will, to the extent possible, identify and volunteer available resources to support the Town's goal of housing diversity.

The Community Housing Committee will collaborate with Town departments, committees and citizen groups to design programs which are consistent with the historic aesthetic character of the Town and preserve the natural resources of Sudbury. The Community Housing Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, other Town committees and Town Meeting. While the Committee does not have the ultimate power to commit Town resources or approve projects, it is the Selectmen's intention to support reasonable actions and recommendations of the Committee that are in line with the Master Plan and the published goals of the Board of Selectmen to the extent that Town Bylaws, Town Meeting action and budgetary limits permit.

Membership and Officers

The Community Housing Committee shall have seven voting members. One member shall be from the Board of Selectmen, one shall be from the Planning Board, and one shall be from the Sudbury Housing Authority, all appointed by their respective boards. The remaining four shall be resident at-large positions, and shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. All appointments shall be for a term of three years. For the four at-large positions, it is desirable to have representation from as many of the following areas as possible: land planning, construction, real estate law, government housing, real estate development, and housing financing. All Committee members shall be expected to educate themselves as necessary to address issues affected by these areas. Appointments shall be staggered: no more than three members' terms will end in one year, two in the following year, and two in the third year. Each year, a Chair and a Clerk will be elected by the regular members from among their number.

In addition, the Executive Director of the Sudbury Housing Authority, and the Town Planner or her/his representative will serve as liaisons and resources to the Committee.

The Committee may create from time to time, in consultation with the Board of Selectmen, sub-committees or ad hoc advisory boards comprised of various housing constituents such as Town and school employees, subsidized housing tenants, and special needs persons; and of various housing professionals such as bankers, architects, builders, and planners; and of various advocates and citizens concerned with community housing. Committee members may participate in committees, task forces, or working groups related to community housing that are created by the Board of Selectmen or others.

Responsibilities and Functions

The Community Housing Committee is responsible for developing options for creating and promoting community housing opportunities throughout the Town, including education, consensus building, and the development and annual update of a community housing plan, encompassing strategies and goals for a five-year period.

The Committee will:

- Develop and periodically review a definition of "community housing".
- Educate the public about the needs for community housing in Sudbury and methods of meeting these needs within broad goals, including: to maintain and to increase a diversity of housing types and sizes to meet the needs of the Town of Sudbury and our traditionally diverse population; to increase the supply of community housing in Sudbury and to preserve existing community dwellings in order to enable people in changed circumstances to continue living in Sudbury; to increase the options which allow older residents to remain in their own homes, enable Town and School employees and children of Sudbury residents to live in Sudbury, and enable those of modest to medium income to live in Sudbury.
- Identify, review, evaluate, and make recommendations on approaches for the preservation and expansion of community housing, including but not limited to, methods of making existing homes available to qualified families, subsidies to assist present home owners, and zoning and bylaw changes, consistent with Federal, State and local law.
- Increase the number of housing options by identifying possible private, Town-sponsored, or other public opportunities for community housing, and by assisting in the creation of these homes with support of initial planning and project formulation, the project approvals process, project development and completion, and collaboration with standing or special Town committees, consistent with Federal, State and local law.
- As housing planners, help define what kind of data on community housing is useful and what kind of housing, housing inventory, demographic, and financial data the Planning Department should gather and make available to the public. Assist the Planning Department to maintain a record of the Town's efforts to comply with affordable housing statutes.
- Report annually to the Board of Selectmen regarding the state of affordability in Sudbury, identification of existing and potential opportunities, resources and housing approaches, barriers to community housing, and promotion of appropriate Federal, State and local programs and regulatory changes.
- Review the Town Meeting articles and present comments and recommendations on those that affect community housing.
- Engage in such other actions and activities as are consistent with this charge.
- Report its activities to the Board of Selectmen on a quarterly basis.

1/28/03