

Town of Long Island
Year-Round Housing Committee (YRHC) Minutes— Jan. 24, 2007
Alden Robinson

Attending: Mark Greene (Housing Admin.); Ruth Peterson (Selectman); Cade Brown; Jonathan Norton; Katie Wegner; Will Tierney; Amy Tierney; Leah Doughty; Tom Hohn; Tammy Hohn; Alden Robinson (Island fellow).

Meeting called to order: 7:00.

1. Mark Greene described the history of the Year-Round Housing Committee (YRHC) up to this point to new members, and then explained the background info packets distributed to each.
2. The YRHC discussed the mechanics of a proposed housing survey and asked for preliminary feedback to some questions. Members were asked to review and critique these surveys in the next few days before they are sent out.
3. The Committee briefly discussed different models for housing programs on other islands, including rental homes and purchase arrangements with covenants. A general proposal for a “starter” project goal, which had been floated at earlier YRHC meetings, was discussed. It would be a single-family, energy efficient, house on town land to be initially rented and possibly sold later with covenants to keep it year round in the future.
4. The Committee discussed the relationship of the proposed housing interest survey to the recently completed comprehensive plan survey. It was felt by some that the comprehensive plan survey questions did not clearly explain or gauge the real housing issues facing Long Island. If a more detailed housing specific survey brought back a clearer idea of what Long Islanders would support, the question was raised whether these results might be included in the final comprehensive plan, since any State grants and funding seem to be dependent on what is in the comprehensive plan. Mark Greene has met with the Comp Plan Committee and asked that question, but it was not known by committee members how different results, if presented, might be integrated to the survey. It was noted that the Comp. Plan survey, while lukewarm to “affordable housing” gave a 79% “very important” vote to supporting “the existence of a year round community on Long Island.” This is good, but certainly raises doubts about responses and possibly conflicts with the Comprehensive Plan questions about “affordable housing.”
5. The Committee discussed potential funding sources for any future housing projects, including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Genesis Foundation and possible funds from the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA).
6. The Committee members present agreed to quickly provide feedback about any suggestions to improve the housing survey. If enough issues were found with the draft survey another meeting would be called next week. If approved by the YRHC, the surveys will hopefully go out in a week or two in order to get results back in a timely fashion in relation to the comprehensive plan deadlines.
7. Alden agreed to make a listserver so we could communicate efficiently and quickly with each other between formal meetings. All attendees were urged to ask others to join in. Anyone who would like to be on the YRHC e-mail list, can contact Alden at arobinson@islandinstitute.org

Meeting adjourned: 7:50.