

Community and Economic Development Committee Meeting

Topic: East Creek Commons and HTRC/NWWVT merger Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) grant applications

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024

Committee members present: Chair Tadio, Alderwoman McClure, Alderman McCann, Alderwoman Davis

Others present: Mayor Doenges, Alderman Barbagallo, Alderman Gillam, Treasurer Mary Markowski, Chair Talbott, and Barbara Spaulding, Ed Bove, Mary Cohen, Dan Caputo, and Gordon Dritschilo

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive a presentation from the Housing Trust of Rutland County on two ongoing projects.

Mary Cohen, the Executive Director of the Housing Trust of Rutland County (HTRC), gave the committee an update on the East Creek Commons Project. Originally there were 22 units total, but with the addition of Mandela House, and a property in Castleton that will be used to house homeless veterans, there will now be 35 units total. The project has been through two rounds of positive funding. This update was for information only.

The second update from Mary Cohen was about the pending merger between the Housing Trust of Rutland County and NeighborWorks of Western Vermont. Both of these organizations do not have overlapping services but have synergies when they work together. The Housing Trust is able to do real estate development projects. NeighborWorks of Western Vermont is able to assist people experiencing homelessness. The goal is to merge the two together to create better overlap of services and increase access to national funding.

NeighborWorks of America will support charter organizations with grants if they have real-estate development projects. NeighborWorks of Western Vermont is a Chartered Member but doesn't have a real estate side, so if this merger occurs, then Rutland County would be able to take advantage of external funding sources! There are five NeighborWorks organizations in Vermont and four of those have real estate development options so they can take advantage of funding from NeighborWorks of America. With this new merger, the goal is to help people go from "homeless to homeowner." This update was for information only.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.