

Town of Brunswick, Maine

**Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 6:00 PM
85 Union Street – Council Chambers
and by electronic devices**

Meeting Minutes (Approved 7/21/22)

Elected Officials: Councilor Christopher Watkinson
Councilor Sande Updegraph (remote)

Staff: Julia Henze
Sally Costello
Matt Panfil

1. Acknowledgement that meeting was properly noticed

CW called meeting to order. JH confirmed the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Adjustments to agenda / Public comment

None.

3. Review of meeting minutes from 5/19/22

CW moved to accept minutes from 5/19/22. Seconded by SU. Approved unanimously by those present.

4. The State of Housing in Brunswick presentation

Sally Costello, Economic Development Director, and Matt Panfil, Director of Planning and Development provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining current demographic, employment and housing trends in the area. SC presented commuter data, Area Median Income and real estate market statistics.

MP presented Brunswick's residential building permits data 2009-2022, noting the significant increase in multi-family developments in the past year and projected. Provided map identifying permitted locations in Brunswick, and anticipated permits. Committee discussed the potential impacts of the housing moratorium on projects currently being processed.

SC outlined considerations for Brunswick staff in evaluating options for housing, developing policies, and providing incentives for affordable housing. Discussed 'carrot and stick' methods. Committee discussed zoning models, different types of housing and developers, economies of scale and 'the missing middle'.

Carol O'Donnell, 305 Maine St – asked: What is the moratorium expected to accomplish? Is there a way to build in flexibility to work with the projects that are being impacted by the moratorium?

Roll Fessenden, Miller Creek – asked: Is the bigger problem that the cost of housing has increased so much?

Committee and discussed the goals of the moratorium, the current supply of housing and the challenges of predicting future economic conditions/housing needs.

5. Adjourn