

@Home in Adams County
Coalition Meeting Minutes from October 26, 2020

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present: More than 40 members of the coalition present including, Ralph Serpe, Robin Fitzpatrick, and Caroline Johnson

Topics and Discussion

1. Affordable Housing Development Updates

- a. Caroline provided an update on ECHO presentation with Freedom Township
 - i. Megan Shreve of SCCAP, Vicki Huffaker of Adams County Office for Aging, and Caroline were welcomed by Freedom Township supervisors to engage the interested group with information about the ECHO program and the benefits of introducing this affordable housing option to the municipality. We are actively promoting this opportunity and plan to visit other interested municipalities. We are also looking for an interested host family to participate in the program.
- b. Valery Adams, SHARE counselor provided update on SHARE Housing
 - i. SHARE is accepting applications for the housing program. Valery has received referrals from partnering organizations and is eager to meet other folks interested in the program! Please help to share Valery's contact information in the community. Contact Valery via email at vadams@acofa.org or by phone at 717-778-1056
- c. Bonnie Zehler of Luminest Community Development shares updates about Meadowview Townhomes Project
 - i. This project recently changed its name from Ridgeview Townhomes to Meadowview Townhomes. Financial closing will take place next year, May/June 2021 and construction will begin immediately after.
- d. Rebecca Moreland of Adams County Office of Planning and Development presents updates on Act 137 and fair housing opportunities
 - i. This presentation included the current definition of "affordable housing" for the Act 137 Program, to include the program's goals:
 1. Prevent beneficiaries of the Act 137 Program from experiencing foreclosure or eviction due to placement in a unit that is not affordable
 2. Encourage applicants to design and implement programs that will provide the most benefit to Adams County residents,
 3. Keep the Act 137 Program guidelines as straightforward and easy to understand as possible.
 - ii. Questions for the group:
 1. With these as our goals, how would you define affordable housing and why?
 2. What topic(s) would you like to see us cover about fair housing, either in relation to the role of a landlord, or just in general?
 3. What organizations should we reach out to announce the availability of the recording to Adams County landlords?
 4. Would you like to be on the mailing list to be notified when this fair housing presentation becomes available online?

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- iii. Send Rebecca your email with your answers to these questions at rmoreland@adamscounty.us. For additional information from Rebecca's presentation, please see the attached document in @Home's email.
- 2. Transportation Updates**
- a. Ralph Serpe shared an update about the Rabbit Transit partnership and Gettysburg/New Oxford/Hanover bus route
 - i. Funding for the bus route has been secured and the proposal for the route has been submitted, we are awaiting response! This is great progress and we look forward to future development.
- 3. Economic Development Updates**
- a. Robin Fitzpatrick shares information on ECHO promotion and effective municipal engagement techniques
 - i. Get to know your municipal leaders as we are looking for leaders who are willing to look outside of the box
 - ii. Know how to best promote this opportunity by understanding the needs and interests of your municipality. – Ask yourself, “How would this benefit the municipality?”
 - iii. If you have any suggestions or questions please contact Caroline at
- 4. Future Meetings**
- a. Bi-Monthly Schedule- We will meet on the fourth Monday of every other month at 1:00p-2:30p.
 - b. Due to the upcoming holidays, we will meet again next year, 2021. Keep an eye out for notification.
- 5. Call to Action**
- a. Get to know your municipal leaders-as we can see by the echo opportunity, we will need municipal leaders who are willing to think a little outside of the box.
 - b. Prepare to vote! – pay attention to candidates beliefs on Affordable housing, transportation, and economic development – this is a great time for some research!
 - c. Look for other building and transportation opportunities and share with Caroline.
 - d. Promote awareness of @Home in Adams County in the community to help spread the word.
 - e. Refer folks to us who are interested in involvement or who wish to learn more information about affordable housing, transportation, and economic development in the community.