

Approved Feb. 2, 2018

Jan. 12 Short-Term Rentals Subcommittee meeting
1:30 p.m., Superintendent's Conference Room

Committee members in attendance; Deb Rimmler, Kate McNulty-Vaughn, Pam Kueber

Community members attending: Rebecca Walsh, Kelly Brown (dialed in via phone)

Documents used at meeting:

- Posting for Jan 20 Short Term Rentals Community Discussions
- Town homepage posting
- Email for distribution to town lists GM
- Press release calendar item Jan 20 Short Term Rental session Lenox
- Posting for Jan 20 Short Term Rentals Community Discussions
- Camera slate for BOS meetings
- Poster on Town Hall front door
- DRAFT Jan 20 Community Dialog PPT
- Sign up sheets.docx
- Punch list
- Host Compliance info on number of nights rented
- Comments on survey questions from Ted Silverman
- Grocz Jan 8

The group invited community member Rebecca Walsh to comment. She said that she currently does Airbnb at her home. She had heard that the Town may be making changes to its policies and was interested. Subcommittee members explained that this was a process underway and that no decisions had been made. They let her know about the Saturday forum and that she could submit or provide comments at any of our meetings.

There was mention of the 1Berkshire proposal and Pam clarified that it had not been a part of our review or decision-making processes up to this point

We also mentioned the survey was underway through Jan. 15. Deb explained the different permutations of STR uses that we were looking at. Kate reiterated that the subcommittee is in "listening" mode right now, wants to hear all sides of the issue, and that the Jan. 20 forum has that goal in mind.

Ms. Walsh said she owns her home, has rented out the whole home at times, sometimes just bedrooms. She loves doing it and said it has been really wonderful to meet various people. She said she can't afford to live in Lenox with it. She said it was exhausting; neighbors love it; we're a little cocoon of people.

After the comments, Ms. Walsh departed the rest of the meeting.

The group then reviewed publicity plans for the Jan. 20 session, going through various documents and plans, updating the progress of each one.

Kelly Brown said he is working on an email list too and will be inviting people as possible. He asked about the email list that the subcommittee had mentioned it was using. Pam confirmed that she believed this is the Town Planner's email list of Town boards and committees.

The group went through the draft powerpoint for Jan. 20, which Pam had updated in several spots. She pointed them out as they went through.

Mr. Brown asked about the definition of primary residence. Pam said this would need to be something the group researched and agreed on if it were to be used in any bylaw language.

Pam explained that the Host Compliance dashboard had recently started showing the number of nights rented. She did not understand exactly how these were calculated or tracked and asked the group if they wanted to include the info in the PPT even so. Everyone agreed yes, to include the info. Pam said she would try to connect with Host Compliance to understand how the data were amassed and tracked.

On the Investor unit scenario, Pam had added second homeowners. The group agreed to also add the scenario about Lenox full-time residents who also have an inherited or other second home in Town that may use for short-term rentals.

Regarding the table monitor document, Deb had done a new, simpler draft. It was agreed that she would add the either/or section back for monitors to use time permitting.

Regarding invitations, Gwen is still trying to get addresses of short-term rental owners to do a direct mailing. She had also asked if the group wanted her to mail to abutters, and the group said that was a good idea. Deb had reached out via Facebook to two hosts of short-term rentals that it was believed were operating fulltime to invite them to the Jan. 20 session as well.

The group looked at the correspondences from Grocz and Silverman. Silverman had commented on the survey and how it was composed; the group agreed to consider these comments more fully when it reviewed the survey findings. All correspondence also will be aggregated when all community input is considered.

No meeting on Jan. 19 – next meeting is the Jan. 20 Forum.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kueber

1/23/2018