Minutes from SeVEDS October 21st, 2021

In attendance: Wendy Harrison, Drew Richards, Adam Grinold, Sue Westa, Josh Druke, Avery Schwenk, Meg Streeter, Keith Marks, Samba Diallo, MaryAnn Kristiansen, Bill Colvin, Ashley Havreluk, Bobbi Kilburn, Jeff and John Dunbar, Laura Sibilia

Wendy called the meeting to order at 3:30.

Ashley informed the board this would be her last meeting and that she was resigning from the board due to a move out of state.

Meg moved to approve the minutes from July 2021 seconded by Ashley – vote unanimous

Discussion about moving the SeVEDS/BDCC annual meeting to the Spring due to COVID. Wendy asked that the BDCC and SeVEDS Board meet.

Bobbi Presented Financials for the period ending 9/30/2021.

Drew moved to accept the financials seconded by Sue – vote unanimous.

The board discussed a number of housing issues and strategies led by Samba, MaryAnn and Josh and guest Jeff and John Dunbar from Bellows Falls:

* Asylee and Refugee housing realities – family members not being able to stay with family members due to a lack of social security number.
* Housing for individuals in drug recovery, many units are disqualified to those with a prior record.
* Department of Health is convened on both issues.
* LISc is the Local Initiative Support Group which focuses on long term partnerships, building capacity and utilizing NM and Low Income Housing tax credits.
* Bennington did an opportunity study on housing rather then a demand study.
* Bennington looking at 31 market rate unit with a waiting list and 306 more units in the next 10 years.
* NH and CT both have CDFA predevelopment fund.
* Dunbar’s spoke about Incremental Development in BF
* Discussion about developers and employers doing exploratory housing projects.
* Homeownership as a wealth building tool
* Shared common space units for singles and retirees
* WRC webinar on housing forthcoming.

Meg made a motion to adjourn at 4:35 – seconded by Drew