

Risler, Hillary

From: James Bellissimo <jbellissimo@berwickmaine.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 4:57 PM
To: Risler, Hillary
Subject: RE: Update on Next Meetings

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This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Hello!

I would just like to stress that there needs to be a State-wide effort to educate folks on what the housing issues are and why it is important to meet the crisis in front of us. The general public, folks who already own homes for example, have no idea there is a housing crises.

I see any housing development no matter the scale get push-back. Folks need to understand housing is an economic issue, it's a transportation issue.

Lastly, maybe most importantly is housing should be placed in strategic places. There was one comment at the first meeting about multifamily only being allowed in a certain percentage of land, well that's for a reason we want development to be centralized. Downtowns and urban centers can be less than 10% of a municipalities land. There are *plenty* of opportunities to increase density with infill. Towns and cities need help with downtown planning, infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, water, sewer etc.) school funding, that way housing is and seems like a win/win/win situation.

I have been beating the drum for quite some time, housing has a terrible PR problem and it's incumbent on all of us to change it.

James

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From: zoning.restrictions.study-ip-request@lists.legislature.maine.gov <zoning.restrictions.study-ip-request@lists.legislature.maine.gov> **On Behalf Of** Risler, Hillary
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 4:36 PM