



## Morristown United for Healthy Living

November 27, 5:30pm - 7:30pm, St. Margaret's Church

### Agenda

#### *Minutes in Green*

5:30 **Welcome & Introductions** (Carlos Sotelo)

5:40 **Updates Since Last Meeting** (Ashley Anglin)

- Tenant Rights Workshop

  - Our first Tenant Rights workshop was held on 11/6 at Neighborhood House; the evaluation results were very positive and attendees asked for more trainings like this to be held in the community

- NJ Citizen Action

  - We now have a good connection to NJ Citizen Action, particularly in relation to housing discrimination. If anyone in the community experiences or suspects housing discrimination, please let us know.

- Housing Alliance

- Meeting with Town Administrator

  - Members of the Steering Committee met with the town Administrator, Jillian Barrick and Rebecca Feldman to discuss ways in which we can work together to meet our mutual goals related to safe, affordable, healthy housing. More to come!

- Morris County Strategic Plan

  - Morris County is conducting strategic planning and needs community input. You can attend an in-person session on 11/29 (drop in anytime between 6:00 and 8:00pm) and/or take an [online survey](#) (click link to access)

5:50 **Upcoming Events/Activities** (Carlos Sotelo)

- One Table, Our Community: 12/17 at 5:00, Neighborhood House

  - [Need raffle prizes, volunteers and ticket support]*

- Ciclismo Seguro: 12/9 at 3:00pm, St. Margaret's Church

- Value/Impact Survey for Coalition members

  - The North Jersey Health Collaborative is conducting a very brief survey of all workgroup members (which includes our Coalition); this will go out in early December to the full contact list. Please respond—your perspective matters to us!

- Green Drinks to celebrate Morristown's Silver Certification from Sustainable Jersey, 2:00pm – 4:30pm, Jockey Hollow Bar and Kitchen at Vail Mansion (RSVP to

  - [info@sustainablemorristown.org](mailto:info@sustainablemorristown.org))

6:00 **Joint Learning Opportunity**

- Jessica Padilla Gonzales, Executive Director, *Housing Partnership NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center*



- Since 1992, the Housing Partnership, a nonprofit organization located in Dover, has been the resource for home buyer education and programs in Northern NJ. Their mission is to strengthen communities by creating lasting and responsible homeownership through education and financial coaching.
- Specific services include: An 8-hour homebuyer education course (available in person and online), one-on-one financial coaching, down payment assistance via NeighborWorks America, administration of “Mount Laurel” affordable housing units, foreclosure counseling, and classes on a variety of topics (e.g., financial fitness, weatherization, “being green, seeing green,” gardening)
- The Housing Partnership has partnerships with ~18 banks who fund the work and provide special loans for homeowners. They work to negotiate with lenders to make homeownership possible for clients who wouldn’t otherwise be able to afford it
- They have an open door policy and provide education and coaching to people of all income levels
- 18-month average time to home purchase for Housing Partnership clients (work on education, building credit, securing loans, etc.)
- There are funds available to help people with their mortgages via NJ Home Saver and Home Keeper programs; deadline to apply is 12/15
- The biggest obstacle people face is the lack of affordable housing in Northwest NJ; people need higher incomes to make ends meet and to make homeownership possible

6:20 **Grant Applications and New Opportunities**

- Proposal from Morris Habitat for Humanity (Rich Cooke)
  - Morris Habitat is requesting \$1,900 to go toward the construction and installation of two “little libraries” (take a book, leave a book) in the 435. This idea came from the built environment/sense of community group. Details were discussed in the meeting, per our policy and the steering committee will vote at our next meeting. Contact Ashley if you would like to see a copy of the proposal.
- Opportunity from Morris Blue (Nate Diskint)
  - Morris Blue is now accepting applications for integrated housing in on Miller Road in Morristown for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (more information at [www.morrisblue.org](http://www.morrisblue.org)). Nate reached out because they would like to ear-mark a room (or respite care, we’d have to work out the details) for people currently living in the 435 who need additional care.
    - Spring move-in date
    - 24-hour staff in the home with regular programming
    - No formal diagnosis needed
    - Can potentially house those with disabilities who are currently homeless (question from the group)
    - Fees on a sliding scale
    - No inquiry into immigration status (question from the group)



-The steering committee will meet to discuss which option would work best for the community/Coalition; anyone with interest is able to join the conversation and if you know of anyone who may be in need of this type of housing, please let Ashley know!

6:40 **Break-Outs by Group**

- Training Sub-Group

- The group is planning a second Tenant Rights Workshop to be held at Salvation Army; additional details to come!

- The group is going to set up a meeting with leadership from the Morristown Housing Authority to get to know one another and discuss their needs and opportunities for collaboration

- Built Environment/Sense of Community Sub-Group

- The group discussed details for the upcoming One Table, Our Community event. Several members volunteered to donate prizes and Ashely, Carlos, and Angela will be visiting local businesses this week to ask for additional donations

-Ashley will work with Danielle to plan the interactive art activity

- Open to new sub-groups!

7:20 **Report-Backs by Group**

7:30 **Close**

**Next meeting: January 22, 2018 [No December Meeting]**

**Meeting Goals:**

- Catch up on the ongoing activities of the coalition
- Learn more about new opportunities for action and the work of the Housing Partnership
- Make progress toward our action plan