

Metro Regional Coalition Council Resolution

Regarding the housing affordability crisis in the Greater Portland region

WHEREAS our region is in need of young workers and families to support our existing and future economy, and to offset our region's demographic challenges; and

WHEREAS the region is losing more and more middle income households because of the cost burden of housing; and

WHEREAS the affordability of housing throughout the Greater Portland region continues to decline according to the Maine State Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS the number and location of household in our region struggling with the costs of housing is rising as documented by the Greater Portland Council of Governments; and

WHEREAS travel between home and work in our region is becoming longer, generating more expense to commuting households and more traffic congestion and stress to our transportation systems; and

WHEREAS the cost burden of housing falls heavily on our senior population, making aging in place more difficult; and

WHEREAS these findings show a lack of adequate housing choices for current residents and future workers, and the region faces a crisis of housing affordability; and

WHEREAS our region's economic and community wellbeing depends on expanding housing choices which in turn will support all our residents as well as our current and future economy by easing the challenges detailed above; and

WHEREAS the municipalities that make up the Metro Regional Coalition share a commitment to making housing more affordable for every person no matter their income level; and

WHEREAS all the municipalities of the Metro Regional Coalition have met and jointly agreed to pursue solutions to this crisis by acting singly and together to take steps at the municipal level to encourage the expansion of the number of housing units that lower and middle income households can afford without incurring unacceptable housing costs burden; and

WHEREAS the Cape Elizabeth Town Council has determined to engage the region's need for expanded housing choices by:

- (1) continuing its existing Mandatory Affordable Housing requirements for new subdivisions; and

(2) undertaking a Housing Diversity Study that evaluates current housing costs, needs, impacts on services and other relevant elements and recommends actions to create more affordable opportunities for seniors to downsize, and for young adults and young families to move to Cape Elizabeth (At a minimum, options to evaluate should include incentives to create permanently affordable housing, and municipal purchase of land for construction of affordable housing, and coordination of regional efforts with the Metro Coalition);

with the goal of completing the study by 2025:

NOW THEREFORE the Cape Elizabeth Town Council is hereby RESOLVED to work with the Greater Portland Council of Governments and the Metro Regional Coalition:

TO EXPAND the number of housing units that can be afforded by lower and middle income households in our community by adopting and improving policies and incentives which allow our community to contribute to achieving the overall regional goal of expanding the number of housing units in our region that are affordable to lower and middle income households by 10% no later than 2025.

Dated this 16th day of October, 2019