

Town Clerk-Town of New Paltz

July 24,2023

PO Box 550/52 Clearwater Ave.

New Paltz, NY 12561

To Whom it May Concern:

I am interested in being a volunteer on the Housing Smart Community Initiative which the Town has recently voted to join. I am not interested in being the coordinator of the Housing Task force and feel I am better suited to be a strong member of the team.

As a member of the County's Housing Smart Community Initiative design for a year, I feel I can make a contribution.

Let me introduce myself. I am a 21-year resident of Ulster County, and the Town of New Paltz. I have been a member of U-Act since 2017 and have been a member of the Housing Committee for the past three years. In that capacity for two years, I worked to understand and support the efforts of the Manheim Mews Senior Housing Project that has been advanced in the Village of New Paltz to better understand the development process of a large sized affordable housing project. This involved my attendance at numerous Zoning and Planning meetings as well as many other municipal meetings, and even attending Town Board meetings in support of the project by U-Act. The project has not received state funding yet but the developer, Affordable Housing Concepts is planning to submit it in the next round of funding.

My working life started as a community outreach advocate finding people who were eligible for Food Stamps and Medicaid among other Services in Eastern Dutchess, which I did for many years, eventually becoming supervisor of the Eastern Dutchess Multiservice Center.

My past relevant experience in the field of affordable housing both from the policy making side and from the recipient's perspective grew from there. I have developed affordable housing in eastern Dutchess County as Executive Director of the Rural Preservation Company and been a landlord/advocate for victims of domestic violence in transitional housing as the Director of Brookhaven Transitional Housing at Grace Smith House in Dutchess County from 2001 until 2013 when I retired. I am familiar with (D)HCR, the NYS Housing Trust Fund, LIHEAP, Weatherization, Community Development Block Grants, and Section 8, and a host of other housing programs. I have been the Board Chairman for the Dutchess County Community Action Agency, And Board Chair for Grace Smith House before I worked there.

The U-Act Housing Committee is eager to understand to the best of our ability the ways in which housing can be made affordable, safe, and sufficient in Ulster County. I feel fortunate to have a chance to work with the Town of New Paltz Housing Smart Community Task Force, and to work together for the best outcomes in housing so that our Town can remain a great place for *everyone* who lives here.

Here is how to reach me:

Susan Denton 845-256-1114 (H) 845-802-6412 (Cell)

susanf.denton@gmail.com

Address: 509 Plutarch Rd. Highland, NY 12528 (It is physically in Town of New Paltz.)

Thanks for reading this and I hope I will hear from you.

Susan F. Denton