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Q1 Please enter your name.

Jennifer (Jenn) Weaver

Q2 What is the most important affordable housing issue in your community?

Rental housing	Most important priority
Affordable homeownership	Most important priority
Senior housing	Most important priority
Critical repairs	Most important priority
Mobile homes	Top priority but not the most important
Permanent housing for homeless	Most important priority

Q3 Should local government provide more money, level funding, or less money to support affordable housing in your community? If you said level or less, why? If you said more, how much more AND how do you plan to achieve this?

About the same amount of money

Please provide an explanation for your response.:

This answer should not be misconstrued for meaning I think there is "enough" money dedicated to affordable housing by the town of Hillsborough. Rather, this answer is a reflection of Hillsborough's capacity, population, and tax base. Our population is somewhere between 7,500-8000 people. That is not sufficient to build housing ourselves, much less maintain it or operate a housing department. Because we are not at scale, any addition to the already high tax burden risks making it worse for the people who most need the help. That said, we should do what we can - continue supporting the Partnership to End Homelessness and the Land Trust, continue to set an example by paying our employees living wages, capitalizing on opportunities as they arise with organizations such as CASA, Empowerment, Habitat (we love having so many Habitat homeowners here), and being mindful of how we plan for land the town owns (such as the acreage around the future train station), since the cost of land is a primary factor in the high cost of housing.

2019 Candidate Survey on Affordable Housing

Q4 Utilizing surplus government-owned land is an important tool for creating affordable housing. What are some parcels of public land you think should be made available for affordable housing? Are there any parcels that should not be?

I believe we should, at minimum, put affordable housing in the hopper of consideration any time town owned properties are set to turn over (such as the current Police Station on Churton St will some day). There may be valid reasons to rule it out, but it should start in the bucket of options. The other place where we have real opportunity is with the town-owned acreage around the future train station. There lies a ripe opportunity for mixed use, mixed income housing. This would of course require partnerships with existing organizations for the reasons stated above.

Q5 What is one local example of an affordable housing program or development that you think worked well? Please explain why you think that was successful and how you will support more of these successes in the future.

There are several, but the Crescent Magnolia Habitat for Humanity effort is a shining example of doing something truly innovative with an existing player in affordable housing. Crescent Magnolia is a first of its kind in the country Habitat project - attached dwelling units for seniors - beautifully integrated into a mixed income neighborhood and including a relationship with the neighboring daycare, bringing preschoolers and seniors together. We are all very proud to have this here.

Q6 How would you ensure that people who have been affected by the lack of affordable housing have a "seat" at decision-making tables about the future development of affordable housing in our community?

We need to be specific about inviting folks. For example, when we embark upon our upcoming revision of the Vision 2030 Plan, we need to both go to people where they are and use connections to specifically invite people we know to be in impacted groups and communities. The same goes for when the town begins embarking on serious planning for the train station property. A frequent blockade to effective community visioning is the disconnect between what people think local government is able to do and what local government is actually able to do, but I have found that when we are able to engage authentically and give people access to information, that blockade is lessened. I am hopeful that can lead to real shared visioning and planning.
