

NRHS Space Study  
Minutes  
April 30, 2015

Attendance:

7:00 pm

Attendees: Mark Jones, David LeBlanc, Heather LeBlanc, Bill Cleary, Don Hawkes, Maureen Busch, Lorraine Romasco, Bob Czeicanski, Bruce Walbridge, Michael Wood, Jodi Specht

Guest: Don Kennedy

Don Kennedy, NESDEC Representative, reviewed the recent enrollment data shared with the school committee back in March. He discussed how to read it. He then went over variability. He explained that they U.S. Census, DPH birth rates, Metropolitan Planning Council and Donahue Center at UMass Amherst. They work with the US Census bureau. They use an age cohort basis. They have gone out to 2030. Ten years out gets a little less accurate. They are not dealing with students, they project everyone who are in that age group. Interviews with the town planners, realtors, and economic development staff. Regional planning agencies are helpful as well. You have to know the right questions to ask. Focus on whether the folks are seeing "school aged" children. You have to track building permits. Ask people who know the community who have lived there for a long time and look for the answer to build out.

Talking about the real estate market, Don reported that the millennials are doing their family formation years in other parts of the country (south and west). When they return they are coming to the city or near a city. Our communities are beginning to pick up from the great recession, but boomers haven't yet put their houses on the market.

Interim Report #2

The committee reviewed different sections of the Interim Report #2. Members contributed word and phrase changes. The group reviewed comments by Heather LeBlanc to add in different locations.

Action:

Don Hawkes moved to approve the Interim Report #2; Dave LeBlanc seconded. The vote was Unanimous

Adjournment:

Don Hawkes moved and Bob Cziekanski seconded to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Unanimous.

Next meeting is May 14th at 7:00 pm.