

12.07.2021

To the Supervisor of the Town of Taghkanic and members of the Town Board,

The Short-Term Rental Committee had one regular committee meeting in December, and at that meeting decided to go back to its previous practice of holding meetings twice a month. Due to some committee members' scheduling conflicts, the committee decided to move meetings to Wednesday evenings. Meetings will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays, and will be held by Zoom for the present, to be revisited in the Spring.

The December meeting was, once again, well attended by members of the public, although there was not a Quorum of committee members in attendance. Questions and comment from the public were reserved for the last ½ hour of the meeting, but there was good participation and lively discussion, with good input from our local STR community. Owners of STR properties are apparently committed to engaging in this process as the draft is reviewed and revised.

The portions of the draft proposal that the committee will focus on between now and the January meetings are those that deal with a residency requirement, and the proposed requirement for an inspection by the ZEO or a designee of the ZEO. The committee has begun to research the possibility of requiring STR insurance as an alternative to inspection and is trying to discern whether this would be sufficient; and is trying to assess what impact either of these choices would have on the Town's resources and liabilities. We're hoping that a review by a land-use lawyer will help clarify the pros and cons of either approach.

The committee continues to feel strongly that it would be in the best interests of the Town to engage a host compliance service provider, and that it would be wise to do so before we get much deeper into a re-write of the draft. Contracting with a service of this kind to identify existing STRs in Taghkanic, and to monitor for compliance with STR Registration, would be both prudent and affordable, and would help use the town's limited resources for regulation and enforcement to best advantage.

We look forward to presenting an updated draft to the Board in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Craig, Chair

For the Short-Term Rental Committee