



**Vote “YES” to local solutions for increased housing options
and affordability in the Mad River Valley**

The Mad River Valley Housing Coalition is looking for your support on this year’s Town Meeting Day. We are asking you to vote “yes” on the article asking you, our community, to dedicate \$4,000 from Warren, Waitsfield and Fayston’s annual town budget to the MRVHC. This money will fund our effort to create local solutions to the MRV’s affordable housing shortage and allow us to retain an employee fully dedicated to this cause. Our goal is to increase housing options to serve MRV community members at all income levels in an effort to retain a healthy, sustainable and diverse community.

The Mad River Valley Housing Coalition has depended on the dedication and passion of its volunteers for the past 3 decades. As such, the effectiveness of our work has varied throughout the years. In January of 2020 we hired our first employee in an effort to bolster our mission and take greater action between monthly meetings. We believe the creation of this part time position has made a substantial impact to our efforts and resulted in our most productive year yet.

Major milestones of our work in 2020 include:

- We worked with local and state experts to identify impediments to housing in the MRV. These impediments would inform our strategic plan.
- We began community outreach through the presentation of recent housing market data that demonstrated our affordable housing deficit.
 - This data, along with potential solutions, was co-presented with the Mad River Valley Planning District in a series of community meetings and a 5-part affordable housing talk series viewable through our website ([Talk Series Recordings](#)).
- We created pilot programs to encourage incremental change that will add up to make a large difference over time.
 - Specifically, through generous funding from the MRV Community Fund, the Warren United Church, and St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church, we created an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Program which exchanges professional support and a \$10,000 construction grant to homeowners in return for creating a rental ADU that will remain a year-round affordable rental for 5 years. The program created 3 new affordable rentals in the first year. Please inquire if interested in participating in 2021.
- We assisted the Towns in the creation or revision of by-laws in an effort to promote diverse and more affordable housing options.
- We assisted individuals in the MRV looking for help constructing affordable homes or keeping their homes affordable in perpetuity.
- We researched and created a list of strategies to reduce the affordable housing shortage and presented this at the Tri-Town Leadership Meeting. We also co-created an [informational booklet](#) available on our website. This research helped informed our 2021 action plan.

In 2021, our efforts will focus on the following solutions to increasing affordable housing options:

- We will expand the **MRV ADU Program to create 5-6 new** long-term affordable rental ADUs each year.
- We will research strategies for structuring, funding, implementing and managing a **Housing Trust Fund**. We will outline our findings and create an implementation recommendation for MRV Towns.
- We will assist the MRV Planning District in researching a **Valley-wide approach to Short Term Rentals**.
- We will collaborate with State and local organizations and committees to create a **Home Weatherization program specific to the MRV**. We will co-host webinars and events to encourage the implementation of weatherization.
- We will continue to **support the MRV Town Planning Commissions** in their efforts to promote strategic density and affordability in housing while working to conserve our natural environment.
- We will include the MRV community in on-going dialogue about potential housing solutions by presenting options, soliciting feedback, creating visual demonstrations, hosting workshops and acting as a resource for information.
- We will continue to assist individuals in the MRV looking for help constructing affordable homes or keeping their homes affordable in perpetuity.

We invite you to attend our Board of Directors and Membership meeting on Monday, February 15th at 4:30 pm to learn more about what we are working on in 2021.

Email us at MRVHousing@Madrivier.com or visit our Facebook page @MRVhousing for the virtual meeting invite.