

## Minutes from AIP Meeting 1/12/16

In Attendance: Louis Tenenbaum, Miriam Kelty, Beth Shapiro, Pazit Aviv, Sarah Gotbaum, Isabelle Schoenfeld, Erin Smith, Noureen Chochan, Marsha Weber and guest; David Merrick

Continued discussion about universal design tax credit and its lack of use in the county. It was explained that the purpose of the law which, which was signed by Ike Leggett 2 years ago, was to create demand both for new homes and existing homes' remodeling with accessibility features. The speakers stated that the law as it is written now is both difficult to understand and the process of follow through is very confusing. The tax credit concept has had little impact and there is no incentive for builders to suggest to clients to include these ideas in their projects. How do you create demand when people do not understand how it works? People count on information from their contractors and without incentives to contractors, there is no benefit to the consumer. David stated that he has tried to use the tax credit but the process is extremely difficult. It is currently a check list and all items must be checked. If one area is incorrect/incomplete, the entire application is denied. He that suggested an a la carte menu would work better. He also questioned whether contractors were involved in the meeting with the county when coding changes about design issues were discussed. Additionally, to date there has been no effort to educate contractors on the new law and so most of them do not know of its existence or how to access it for their customers.

Last meeting, representatives from the county explained how to complete the forms and that the website would be useful. To date, no one has seen the website.

Since 2014/15, 21 permits have been issued for some design work. It was suggested that talking to one of the builders who received a permit would be useful. Questions such as what did they do, how did they know about the permit and would they do it again would be useful. Erin will locate contractors who completed this process

How does this committee help from here?

1. Question the practicality of the law as it is written now. It must be readable.
2. How to communicate the law in different languages.
3. Learn the amendment process to understand ways to improve it.
4. Send letter, thru the commission, pointing out the issues and concerns.
5. Recommend enclosure in tax bill of tax credit program to educate the public about it.
6. As stated above, meet with a contractor who has completed the process.

Large concern discussed was whether the Permitting Dept. sees a problem or thinks the website will be a solution.