



We recognize that there is a need for better oversight and regulation of long-term rental housing in Bar Harbor. However, past staffing shortages and lack of enforcement tools have been contributing factors in the inability to manage and enforce minimum requirements. The current complaint-based system is inadequate and insufficient to prevent and address LTR housing problems like over-crowding and life safety violations. We are hopeful that a Task Force made up of landlords, tenants, town staff, and other community stakeholders, whose purpose is to investigate, discuss and make recommendations for a LTR registration program will help us develop informed, concise, and focused recommendations. We are sensitive to ensure that elements of the program will not create an undue burden and will not cause tenant displacement to the greatest extent possible. Our goal is to gain support for the program and create partnerships with landlords and tenants through engagement and education.

Matthew Bartlett, Fire Chief
Angela Chamberlain, CEO

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Long-Term Rental (LTR) Housing Registration Program is to: protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of Bar Harbor; ensure that all rental units in the town of Bar Harbor are maintained in a safe and sanitary condition and do not create a nuisance or derelict conditions to the surroundings; and to maintain a registry of long-term rentals that require registration and relevant associated data to assist the town in understanding the characteristics of the existing housing stock.

RECOMMENDED TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

- 1 MEMBER OF THE BAR HARBOR TOWN COUNCIL
- 1 REP. MDI/ELLSWORTH HOUSING AUTHORITY
- BAR HARBOR CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
- BAR HARBOR FIRE CHIEF
- BAR HARBOR PLANNING DIRECTOR
- 2 RESIDENTS AT LARGE
- 2 LONG-TERM RENTAL LANDLORDS
- 2 LONG-TERM RENTAL TENANTS

PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR THE TASK FORCE

Fall 2021 – Appoint Task Force members; staff will prepare a schedule and develop a framework for the Task Force to begin their discussions.

01/2022 – First meeting of the Task Force to brainstorm and identify the elements of a program which will need to be discussed and vetted throughout the process.

02/2022 – 04/2022 - The Task Force will meet for three months to discuss the details of the program and develop recommendations on the structure of the program.

05/2022 – The final meeting of the Task Force to finalize any remaining details and preparation of the final report with recommendations.

06/21/22 – Staff will present the final report with recommendations to the Town Council for their consideration.