

Minutes for Elderly Housing Committee

Zoom Meeting, January 12, 2023

Brook School Apartments, Weston MA, 02493

Attendees:

EHC Members: Tom Timko-Chair, Carol Ott, Tack Chace, John Hennessey, Karin Ott

Town of Weston: Sarah Sequeira - Housing Certification Specialist, Ed Jarobski- Maintenance Specialist

Weston Residents (BSA): Paul Bau, Rachel Bau, Shirley Small Rougeau, Paul Foley, Diane Griffin, Arthur Jones, Patti Davenport (via zoom), Elaine Anderson (via zoom), Nancy (via zoom), Alan Orth (via zoom) Vee Brooks (via zoom), Gary (via zoom), Ianna (via zoom)

Weston Residents: Town of Weston (via zoom), Lisa Yanakakis (via zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 AM.

Residents' Comments:

BSA resident Arthur commented that he would like to see everyone at Brook School Apartments work together for the benefit of the apartment community. He would also like to see greater attendance at the EHC meetings.

EHC member Tom took this opportunity to ask residents their thoughts on ways to increase meeting attendance. BSA resident Paul F. mentioned that he thought it was the time of the meetings that could be preventing some residents from attending and that a time later in the day may be more suitable. This was done in the past with mixed results but it was determined that it is worth trying again. Also, including coffee and light refreshments could help ensure better attendance.

The next meeting was then set for Tuesday, March 7th at noon.

Minutes: The January 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

EHC member Tom as well as others in attendance welcomed Karin Ott as the new EHC member of the board and then thanked former EHC member Mellissa Brokalakis for her work and dedication to the EHC board and wished her luck with any future endeavors.

Brook School Apartment Update: Sarah Sequeira and Ed Jarobski

There will be a move-in taking place in the D Building imminently while two vacant open units are in the process of being filled. An additional two units need some work done including the installation of cabinets before they are suitable for move-ins. One of the units that needs work has a prospective tenant.

BSA resident Shirley mentioned that an updated BSA directory is needed. An updated directory will be made and residents who do not wish to have their contact information included can opt-out. BSA resident Paul B. suggested a flyer should be distributed introducing new residents when there are move-

ins. Further discussion was then had regarding ways to help welcome new residents and create more of a sense of community. Welcoming new residents with the electronic bulletin boards now on display was mentioned as well as arranging a meet and greet. EHC member Karin Ott mentioned that in the past the Social Worker would implement ways to welcome new residents.

It was noted that if a Resident Committee was formed it could welcome new residents and help to create a sense of community. Although there is currently no Resident Committee and when there was one in the past there were some challenges, it is believed that going forward such a group could be a success. Brook School management is not permitted to be involved in developing or running a Resident Committee but they can let the Brook School population know of the opportunity. All in attendance seemed to agree that a new start regarding a Resident Committee was a good idea that it should be encouraged.

New apartment directory signs have been ordered; however, due to high demand for the product, they will not be delivered until February.

Work has essentially been completed on the two electric car charging stations that have been installed. BSA resident Paul B. asked that it be noted he is suggesting that the use of the charging stations be free for BSA residents. He also proposed that EHC members make an official stance on the issue. The EHC members made a motion stating that 'it is the sense of the board that BSA residents should be exempt from financial charges for using the electric charging stations for at least a period of 2 years. At that point, the issue could be re-examined. 'BSA resident Alan commented that for the electric charging stations to be free to the residents there may need to be a rebate based on his understanding of how the stations will be set up. This will be looked into and EHC members are confident that this situation could be managed.

Building E: Tom Timko

There is nothing new regarding this subject. It was suggested that this be taken off the agenda.

Sunrise: Tom Timko

The developer has proposed a new layout for the building that would include 20 units. It was noted that having as many as 24 units would be ideal but that would be difficult based on the current structure of the building. This topic will be discussed at the RHSO upcoming meeting. The property would be managed under Brook School Apartments and would be considered affordable but more time and discussion is needed to be certain of the exact factors that will apply to the building going forward. BSA resident Paul F. asked what are the proposed sizes of the new units. It was then answered that they range between 500—900 feet.

Storage Update: Tom Timko

Monyette and Ed will be doing a walkthrough of the area and brainstorming possible ways to improve the area to better meet the needs of the Brook School Community. The Historical Society as well as the Woman's Community League of Weston have been storing items at Brook School Apartments. These organizations have been notified that the space will now be needed to serve the needs of Brook School Apartment residents. Further action may be needed to help ensure that they remove their stored items.

Affordable Housing Trust: Tom Timko

The 751 Boston Post Road project's final permitting has taken place with construction likely to begin in the spring. The "Whopper," 518 South Ave/Route 30., is still in litigation. The developer at 104 Boston Post Road has been denied by the housing court. An 18-unit development was approved near the Mobil Station on Route 117/North Ave. There is some movement for the Old Liberty Mutual Building to become affordable housing and there is a large development in Waltham by the transfer Station on 117 that has a possibility of accommodating affordable housing units.

As noted earlier in the minutes the next meeting is scheduled for March 7th at noon.

The meeting Adjourned at 9:10 AM.