

Minutes for the Elderly Housing Committee

Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Brook School Apartments, Weston, MA 02493

**Attendees:**

EHC Members: Tom Timko – Chair, Melissa Brokalakis (via Zoom), Tack Chace, John Hennessey, and Carol Ott

Town of Weston: Monyette Vickers, BSA Manager; Karin B. Ott, Housing Certification Specialist; and Jim Polando Weston Permanent Building Committee Chair.

Weston residents: BSA Residents: Paul & Rachel Bau, Paul Foley, Judith Harding, and Shirley Small-Rougeau. Zoom Attendees: Patti Davenport, Gary Marcoux, Frank Hillery, Shirley Small-Rougeau and one unidentified person.

Governor Baker's order of the Open Meeting Law changes was read.

**Meeting Called to order at 8:03AM.**

**Residents Comments** Paul Bau asked what the timing was for the renovation to the common area in Building A & storage. The timing is unclear. The funds for the project will be voted on either at this spring town meeting or the fall town meeting. The EHC is still awaiting the cost analysis of the project from the Town facilities department. The new space has been designed with storage for all residents, tv theater, exercise room and an all-purpose/art room.

Paul B. also asked if it is possible to repaint the speed bumps in the driveway soon.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the February 1, 2022 meeting were accepted, with a minor correction, unanimously by rollcall.

**Brook School Apartments Update: Monyette** - Three new residents are moving in as of today. Request for updated information letters have been mailed out to everyone on both the market and subsidized waitlists. Applicants have 30 days to respond or they will be removed from the waitlist.

The vinyl BSA sign on School Street has been installed. The wall at the lower entrance of Building C has been repaired and a table will replace the shelf that had been used for packages. Monyette is waiting for the IT department to resolve the issue of no fiber optics in Building B. Once that has been resolved all digital boards can be installed throughout the campus to replace the cork boards.

Spring clean up and outdoor repairs will be scheduled as soon as the weather improves. The Weston Fire Department will come and have a fire safety and prevention presentation. Light snacks will be provided to encourage residents to attend.

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> Springwell returns with weekly hot lunches in the Palmer Room. Flyers have been sent out to residents. Springwell will also have presentations at some of the lunches.

The Housing Certification Specialist position has not been filled.

**Building E – Tom** There will be a meeting with the Community Preservation Committee on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions the committee may have regarding the proposed Building E. There will be a public meeting of the CPC on March 21<sup>st</sup> for all proposal that are before the committee.

The EHC will have a few more meetings with residents before the Spring Town Meeting.

Paul Foley said that he feels many BSA residents are opposed to any new building and that the proposed 14 units will not help Weston resolve the problem with affordable housing. He suggested that the EHC and Town look into other solutions. Tom explained that the EHC has been looking for solutions for the past ten years and there are no other town properties available. The Town is also unable to develop structures with out and independent waste water facility. The BSA septic was designed to have up to 14 more units added.

**Affordable Housing Trust Update** Tom gave an update on the various pending projects in Weston.

**Sunrise** – The Select Board has been talking with the owners of Sunrise on North Ave. There are other private parties interested in the property as well. John stated that the EHC should take ownership of a study to see how many affordable senior housing apartments there could be there. Tom explained that the EHC can not pay for a research project that the Town does not own.

Discussion continued which included the benefits for the Town to have a more diverse population and how go about acquiring Sunrise.

A proclamation was made;

The Elderly Housing Committee strongly supports the Town of Weston's purchase and acquisition of the Sunrise property as soon as possible to provide expanded opportunity for affordable elderly housing.

The Elderly Housing Committee is committed to funding an initial study to understanding and analyzing the potential of that property.

Carol Ott moved and John Hennessey seconded. The proclamation was passed unanimously by a rollcall vote.

A draft will be sent to the Select Board. Tom will reach out to the Town Manager and the Select Board.

Shirley thanked the Board for trying to push forward the purchase of Sunrise.

**The next EHC meeting will be Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 AM (please not change of date\_)**

The meeting was adjourned @ 9:16.