

Minutes for Elderly Housing Committee

Zoom Meeting, March 7, 2023

Brook School Apartments, Weston MA, 02493

Attendees:

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

Town of Weston: Monyette Vickers – Property Manager, Sarah Sequeira - Housing Certification Specialist

Weston Residents (BSA): Paul Bau, Racheal Bau, Arthur Jones, Shirley Small- Rougeau, Paul Foley, Diane Griffin, Elaine Anderson, Gary Marcoux, Violet McCarthy, Leonard Savoie, Diane Savoie, Nancy Orth (via zoom)

Weston Residents: Town of Weston (via zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 PM.

Residents' Comments:

BSA resident Arthur commented that he appreciates the efforts of the EHC Board and BSA staff in regard to the Brook School Community. However, as a whole he feels disappointed with the state of affairs, largely with the country as a whole.

BSA resident Shirley commented that some of the residents don't have smart phones and they may miss the notices on the electronic bulletin boards. She wondered if passing out flyers would be helpful. Several residents agreed. It was decided that flyers will be made for the next meeting and several residents offered to help distribute them. The plan is to do this for the next few months and see if it increases attendance. Also, the meetings will be held at 12pm for the next few months offering a light lunch to see if there is more engagement among residents. It was agreed that offering refreshments at meetings is definitely worth trying but it was noted for planning purposes that knowing the approximate number of residents attending will be helpful. BSA resident Gary mentioned a sign-up sheet.

BSA resident Arthur asked what happened to the birthday listings in The Babbling Brook newsletter. He, as well as fellow resident Diane, mentioned that they thought that it was nice to have birthdays in the newsletter. Monyette then explained that she received multiple complaints from residents that they did not want any personal information published.

Minutes: The February 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Brook School Apartment Update: Monyette Vickers

There will be a move-in taking place in the B Building. There are currently four vacancies. There is still work being done on these units. We are moving through the waitlist from 2017/2018 pretty quickly as a lot of the applicants have found other living accommodations.

A new resident directory is in process. Residents will be filling out forms that allow them to opt-out of having their phone number published.

New apartment directory signs are in production. Artwork to decorate the hallways from the retailer Home Sense is in the process of being ordered.

Work has been completed on the two electric car charging stations that have been installed. The town is aware that the EHC Board as well as the residents of BSA feel they should be free for BSA tenants. EHC member Tack emphasized that he agrees the charging stations should be free for residents for the initial period when the charging station are available to the public. After that, we should review the policy.

A Spring Clean Up will be taking place. There will be a dumpster on site. Residents will be encouraged to use the dumpster to discard any unwanted items from their apartments. Residents were also encouraged to let staff know if they need help lifting items as this help can be provided. The date for this is to be determined.

Mass Housing will be performing an audit on the 28th of March. Ten percent of the units will be randomly inspected. All residents will get a two week notice that an inspection may occur in their unit. Files will be inspected as well.

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 a plan that would allow for an additional few units would be ideal. This project is likely to take place under a friendly 40B; and whether or not the town's approval will be needed is uncertain. Hopefully more information will be available at the next meeting. BSA resident Paul F. asked what the odds of success are that this project will come to fruition. EHC member Tom answered that it was hard to exactly determine that, but he feels somewhat positive that the odds are better than even.

Storage Update: Tom Timko

Monyette, Ed, Tom and Carol did a walkthrough of the Forbes room brainstorming possible ways to improve the area to better meet the needs of the Brook School Community. Further research and planning are needed. There seem to be some viable ways to get an additional small number of storage units. Many factors will have to be reviewed to determine the most fair, equitable and optimal way to proceed. This could include considering current resident closet space and possibly charging residents for the extra storage. It might be possible to use the space to build some apartment units. Some of the space in the Forbes area may also be allocated towards a community space. BSA resident Nancy suggested an exercise center as she believes it would be an asset to the community. This as well as other ideas will be considered. 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

Habitat for Humanity will be breaking ground in Weston as 6 units have been approved for the town. Resident Paul B. asked where the funding was coming from for the units. Tom explained that the town gifted the land and Habitat for Humanity will be paying for the construction. Also, there is some movement for the Old Liberty Mutual Building to become affordable housing. This will have to go to the Select Board.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11th at noon.

The meeting Adjourned at 1:07 PM.