

## **Minutes for Elderly Housing Committee**

Zoom and In-person Meeting, April 20, 2023

Brook School Apartments, Weston MA, 02493

### **Attendees:**

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

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

Weston Residents (BSA): Shirley Small- Rougeau, Paul Foley, Diane Griffin, Elaine Anderson, Gary Marcoux, Nancy Orth, Deborah Clark, Hazel Pappas, Diane Savoie, Lenny Savoie, C. Elise Alegria, Paula Davenport, Judith Harding, Arthur Shores, Kim Sylvester. Deedee Perkins (Via Zoom)

Weston Residents: Town of Weston (via Zoom)

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

EHC member Tom commented that there was a good turnout.

### **Residents' Comments:**

A few residents commented that they would like a new directory as the current resident directory is a year and a half old. Monyette informed everyone that on May 1st there will be an updated Resident Directory that will be distributed with the Babbling Brook Newsletter. All residents have received a form to complete regarding their contact information and the option to opt out of having their information published. Some residents did not return the form. Residents will be reminded again about completing the form and if they do not respond, contact information currently on file will be used in the directory.

BSA resident Shirley Small- Rougeau mentioned that the sign for the electric car charging station is pointed in the wrong direction. The appropriate people have already been notified. Residents inquired about what the pricing guidelines will be for the use of the electric charging stations. We are waiting to hear from the town regarding pricing details.

Resident Nancy Orth commented that the numbers designating the different parking spots need to be repainted. Monyette stated that the town is currently working on a bid with the facilities. In the interim Ed will retouch the numbers.

Resident Paul Foley asked for an update as to when the air conditioning units will be replaced. It was answered that they are waiting on the company who will install them. This will hopefully be soon. It was then asked if the refrigerators in the apartments will also be replaced. Monyette answered that she currently is not aware of all refrigerators being replaced. However, she did mention that as old refrigerators have been removed, they have been updated with energy-efficient models.

**Minutes:** The March 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Brook School Apartment Update: Monyette Vickers**

There are currently four vacancies. All four vacant units are expected to be occupied by May. Resident Patricia Davenport asked why it takes so long to fill a vacant apartment. Monyette explained the complexities of filling a subsidized unit according to HUD guidelines.

An outdoor bike rack has been installed which holds six bikes. Bikes need to be tagged with the name of their owner along with the unit number. Owners are asked to ensure they have their bikes locked.

Annual inspections will take place on May 3rd and 4th. This will include all units as well as storage areas. Resident Deedee Perkins asked what will be examined during the inspection. It was answered that appliances as well as toilets etc. will be inspected. Also, egress ways will be checked. It was then asked if residents must be present for the inspections. It was answered residents do not have to be present.

Resident Nancy Orth commented that dog fur was found in and around the washing machines in Building D. Letters will be sent to dog owners about this issue.

Resident Diane Griffin suggested that Brooks School could possibly have a yard sale. Monyette agreed that this would be a good idea and encouraged the residents to organize one if they wish.

Resident Nancy Orth mentioned the possibility of having a clothing donation area. It was noted that donations will need to be bagged and labeled.

It was stated that the grills and umbrellas will be put on the patios on May 22nd. The Residents then asked if this could happen any sooner. Ed answered he will try to get them out as quickly as possible. Monyette then reminded residents that they need to take care of the grills as well as other items on the patios. Resident Shirley Small- Rougeau mentioned that the grill cover for Building C is missing. Monyette answered that one will be ordered.

Updated signage continues to take place. Building C has been updated and the remaining buildings will have updated signage soon.

Resident Elaine Anderson asked about updating the recycling signage with images. Monyette then answered that they have tried that in the past without much success. Although with the most current updated signage, there has been some improvement with people following the recycling guidelines, there are still a lot of issues with improper recycling. The next step would be to put a camera in the recycling area.

Resident Kim Sylvester asked what the policy was on residents giving keys to health aides and family. Monyette answered that as this is independent living residents can give keys to who they see fit.

Remote blinds will be installed in the Palmer Room in Building C and Building D will have the drapes replaced.

Ed will be repairing the raised garden beds.

Flyers will continue to be distributed to notify residents of the upcoming EHC meetings.

Spring cleaning will take place on May 9th and 10th. 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.

### **Building E: Tom Timko**

There is nothing new regarding this subject. This will be taken off the agenda.

### **Sunrise: Tom Timko**

Progress on the Sunrise Project seems to be moving along slowly. Tom states that a master lease is possible. Resident Paul Foley asked what a master lease may look like. It was answered that a master lease usually lasts for 15 years and may have the option to buy. Tom then reminded those in attendance that this is all in the very preliminary stages. Resident Paul Foley asked how the Sunrise Project will be approved. It was answered that it would be approved by the Select Board. He then asked what the general consensus is of the Weston town residents regarding the Sunrise Project. Tom answered that he cannot be completely certain but so far, the people seem to be amenable to the project. EHC member Carol Ott also agreed that the town seems to be moving toward acceptance.

### **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. Many factors will have to be reviewed to determine the most fair, equitable, and optimal way to proceed in terms of how to use this space. Resident Nancy Orth asked if the Historical Society and The Woman's League of Weston have removed their stored items as requested. It was answered they have not but efforts will continue to ensure they remove their items. It was then asked how much the storage study cost. It was answered that the study cost \$26,000. The study revealed that the initial plans would be cost-prohibitive.

Resident Nancy Orth asked if it's possible for some of the space in the Forbes area to be used as an exercise room as exercise has many advantages for seniors. Carol Ott agreed that this is a good idea. Karin agreed to be the point person to "get the ball rolling" regarding research and budgeting. In the meantime, it was suggested by Carol that Nancy talk with her fellow residents and see what exercise equipment they would like to see in the exercise room. Nancy agreed that she would be happy to do this.

### **Affordable Housing Trust: Tom Timko**

There is nothing new to report. They are scheduled to have a meeting in the coming weeks. Therefore, there will hopefully be an update at the next EHC meeting.

Resident Paul Foley mentioned that there will be a Town Meeting on May 8th. Discussions on Wetland Revisions as well as Pickleball are scheduled to take place.

The next EHC meeting is scheduled for May 16th at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM.