

Minutes for Elderly Housing Committee
In-person Meeting, September 5, 2023
Brook School Apartments, Weston MA, 02493

Attendees:

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

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

Weston Residents (BSA): Paul Foley, Diane Griffin, Gary Marcoux, Lenny Savoie, Patti Davenport, Kim Sylvester, Rachel Bau, Paul Bau, Hazel Pappas, Carol DiCicco, Lena Galynkina, Nancy Orth, Sally Raymond, Ann Mohn, Mary Melican, Violet McCarthy, Shirley Small-Rougeau, C. Elise Alegria, Igor Podobedov, Judy Gray, Sandra Gosselin

The meeting was called to order at 11:14 AM.

Residents' Comments:

Resident Sally Raymond informed the EHC that she had called the police as pickleball players were parking in resident spaces. The police arrived and did not act. Monyette will be meeting with Leon, Town Manager to talk about this issue and develop a plan going forward. It is likely the Select Board will have to issue a directive so that the parking guidelines are clear and enforceable. In the meantime, residents were encouraged to contact the police when pickleball players are parking in resident spaces. Tom suggested that there should be a parking spot inventory. This will take place. John suggested that if the recreation department were to use some of the spots, they should contribute to their maintenance. Monyette said this has been discussed. Resident C. Elise Alegria commented that soccer season will be starting, and this will also cause issues with parking. John commented that we need to enforce the parking regulations or the problem could become worse. Resident Paul Foley asked if people parking in resident spots can be towed. Tom said to take license plate numbers and report it to the police as well as to inform Monyette.

Resident Judy Gray mentioned that there were a lot of flies in her apartment. There was damage to the trash door by a vendor causing this issue. Ed assured the tenants that the situation is rectified.

C. Elise Alegria mentioned that there was trash on the floor of Building D. Monyette replied that a camera is being ordered. Monyette stated that the Director of Recycling has given Brook School Apartments a notice that their recycling continues to be contaminated. She then reiterated that if you are not sure if something is recyclable to put it in the trash. Resident Sandra Gossling commented that people are not breaking down their boxes. Ed said that he can help break down boxes if people need help.

Paul Foley mentioned that he recently went to a zoom housing meeting where he became aware of a digital system that can be put in apartment rooms where if you fall you can ask for an ambulance to be called. He believes this could be useful for those at BSA. It was determined that this is an interesting idea that could be beneficial. Management could help distribute information but as BSA is an independent living facility it would be up to the residents themselves to decide individually if they

would like to acquire and have the system installed. The example Paul reported used Amazon's ECHO system and requires an email address, an Amazon account and ECHO units in the apartment.

Minutes: The August 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Brook School Apartment Update: Monyette Vickers

-There were two move ins in Building D. There is currently one available apartment in Building A. It is a subsidized unit.

-Monyette had a meeting with the company that provided the digital boards. This meeting provided the information necessary to allow the board to be more user friendly to distribute information.

-As discussed earlier the recycling in Building D is contaminated. Resident Nancy Orth asked if you needed a sticker to use the Transfer Station. It was answered that for recycling you do not need a sticker.

-Planter boxes have been cut down to the root. Monyette explained that residents are not allowed to cut any plants and that the work of the Garden Club is with management approval. Resident Ann Mohn took this opportunity to thank resident Rachel Bau for all the work she does regarding the flowers and planting around Brook School Apartments.

Budget: Tom Timko

Tom informed those in attendance that there will likely be a rent increase. There are no numbers yet but, when the HUD rates come out in October the rent rates will be appropriately adjusted. HUD subsidizes the subsidized units in Buildings A, B and C, so it is important to stay in regulation with their guidelines. More information will follow next month. Monyette told residents that if their finances change, they could consider applying for subsidized housing. Resident Patty Davenport asked who subsidizes Building D. It was answered that the Community Preservation Act pays part of the bond for Building D.

Sunrise: Tom Timko

Sunrise is moving forward slowly. There will likely be a meeting with the abutters as well as the Zoning Board and with the Historic Commission. It is expected that the zoning article at the town meeting will be like that of Merriam Village.

Building A Basement: Tom

There will soon be a meeting with Gary from the facilities department. Storage closets and an exercise room will likely be built as well as two additional apartments. There will be a meeting with an architecture firm to develop a plan that hopefully allows the storage units to be completed prior to the completion of the new apartments. C. Elise Alegria mentioned that she saw there are storage units that only have one box. Monyette responded that management cannot monitor the personal property of an individual and their storage.

Affordable Housing Trust: Tom Timko

There is nothing new to report. There will be likely more to report regarding the Affordable Housing Trust at the October EHC meeting.

The next EHC meeting is scheduled for October 3th at 10AM.

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 PM.