

EAST HAMPTON HOUSING AUTHORITY MONTHLY BOARD

MEETING September, 2021 Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

TIME: 6:03 pm

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tom Denman, Bonnie Berkovich, Beth Kelpen, Roseanne Amenta, Eric Gibson

STAFF PRESENT: Jodi Brazal, Dion Roccapriore, Sheryl Dougherty

RESIDENTS PRESENT: Barbara Brusseau, Pat Butler, Venetia Colon, Donna DiGregorio, Louise Guertin, Kathy Finn, Emmett Flannery, Shirley Shaw, Freddie Winstanley, Kelly Zeitlin, Unidentified.

II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Beth Keplen

SECONDER: Roseanne Amenta

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. PAYMENTS OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Green River, water heater access.

Auditor change due, audit has not been returned.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

No further communication has been received from the state about the grant.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Shirley Shaw C6- lawn mower transportation between facilities. Jodi - we currently have one lawn mower out for repairs and have no access to a trailer/truck to transport large equipment or materials.

Kelly Zeitlin E1 - Perception of Cable transition as the East Hampton Housing Authority abandoned residents.

VI. UPDATES & REPORTS

A. MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

- Quotes have not come back for sidewalks at Chatham D building
- Poison for rodents near center building at Bellwood due to residents continuing to feed animals bread etc.

B. RESIDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

- Wrapping up Rental Rebates
- Energy Assistance Applications to begin in late September, early October
- Emergency Broadband Benefit applications for those who have internet service.
- Cable statement composed and read by Sheryl Dougherty, Resident Services Coordinator:

“East Hampton Housing Authority terminated its contract with Comcast effective 8/31/21 60 days were provided to tenants to seek other options for television services Reps from Comcast were put in place August 1st for each location and information was provided to all residents via newsletter, bulletin boards and direct letters from the Comcast representatives. I was available as a liaison between the comcast reps and residents if requested. Independent contracts were signed with these comcast representatives. As an independent living facility, it is not the responsibility of the East Hampton Housing Authority as a landlord to make recommendations or interfere in the contracts residents sign with outside service companies, as long as it remains within the rules and policies of their lease. The East Hampton Housing Authority recognizes the best interests of its residents were not taken into consideration by Comcast/Xfinity. It has submitted a negative customer service review regarding the overall experience. I have been and continue to work as an advocate for residents regarding this difficult transition. I have reached out to high level management at Xfinity/Comcast, the Attorney General, State Representatives, and the Chair of the State Commission on Aging in hopes to change policy, establish a Bill opposing such exploitation of the aged, as weak as, establish financial recourse for residents. This is a long/tedious process without guarantee. We encourage you to voice your experience and concerns to Comcast/Xfinity as well. This includes any disruption of services, duplicate payments, overage charges etc. I will continue to advocate and work as a liaison with you between comcast/xfinity by providing your appropriate information and contacts to resolve outstanding issues. We however, can not directly dispute any discrepancies or issues regarding your independent contracts with Comcast/Xfinity.”

C. COMMISSION ON AGING

- The Survey of town residents 65+ is ready to begin distribution, Bonnie will work with interns in ensuring residents have an opportunity to fill it out. This is important information to gather to ensure the

town is aware of resources needed for seniors such as housing, transportation and medical needs.

D. TENANT COMMISSIONER

- Request to have Board Meeting in-person again.

Unfortunately due to continued liability and the lack of space to properly social distance we do not have a space that will facilitate the needs of our board meetings. (Jodi Brazal)

Convenience and comfort to express thoughts and ideas remain a positive indication to continue meetings via zoom at this time. (Tom Denman)

- Request to post a safety advisory on bulletin boards due the recent attack on a senior citizen at the nearby Big Y in Marlborough.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Active:

1. CDBG - Jodi Brazal reported there has been no indication that the grant has been signed off by the state.

Eric Gibson reported their seemed to be no issues regarding the revised layout plan,

Clarification is needed regarding costs associated with plan revisions, indicating there should be none.

Jodi reported a 15k error in billing as well as a premature payment request, so is cautioning for detailed follow up and attention to invoices and plans.

B. Tabled:

1. Bids Bellwood Repaving Project (tabled until spring of 2022) due to town's sewer repair project.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Property behind Chatham

Per recommendation of Kevin Reich at the August board meeting Tom Denman is investigating the acquirement of property adjacent to Chatham Acres. He and Jodi Brazal have a scheduled meeting with David Cox , East Hampton town manager to discuss possible grant funding available for this purchase.

Requested new business for next meeting:

1. An addendum to the current Pet Policy to include mandatory crating of pet if the resident is not home and maintenance/staff needs to enter (e.g. plumber)

2. Executive Director requested that the Board clarify for residents that the E.D. does not set the base rent and cannot lower it if residents have experienced a decrease in their income. There are only a small number of apartments with rental assistance and J. D'Amelia (who oversees the rental assistance program) will not provide any additional monies to us.

IX. VACANCY REPORT

A. Chatham Acres: 0 Bellwood: 1

Vacancy at Chatham Acres was filled, this is now a non-SRAP funded apartment, the current vacancy at Bellwood Court will also now be a non-SRAP funded apartment.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Time: 7:23 pm

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Roseanne Ament

SECONDER: Beth Keplen

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl Dougherty RSC Cc:

Board Members, Town Manager, and Town Council