

EAST HAMPTON HOUSING AUTHORITY MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Feb 16th, 2022 6 PM ZOOM

Call to Order

A board meeting of the East Hampton Housing Authority was held on 2/16/22 via Zoom. It began at 6:01 and was presided over by Eric Gibson

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included Eric Gibson, Donna Goodspeed, Beth Kelpen, Bonnie Berkovich, Roseanne Amenta

Employees in attendance: Jodi Brazal, Sheryl Dougherty, Dion Roccapriore

Guest in attendance: Judith Bobbi, Barbara Brusseau, Timothy Chapman, Kathleen Finn, Louise Guertin, Marilyn Gerzabek, Mary Krogh, Ann McLaughlin, Linda Nadeau, Bunny Simko, Alison Walck, Fredi Winstanley, Kelly Zeitlin

Voting Members not in attendance included: N/A

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous January, 19, 2022 meeting was made by Roseanne Amenta and seconded by Donna Goodspeed.

Payments of Bills and Financial Report - Eric made a comment regarding an expense to J&J Carpentry for repairs to the bathroom in B3. He also commented on a payment to Outdoor Specialist in the amount of \$3600 which was for leaf cleanup.

Communications – none

Public Comment- none

Updates & Reports

Maintenance Projects was presented by Dion Roccapriore.

Redoing bathroom in D3

Two handicap door replacements. Removal of screen doors as this would make it easier for those in wheelchairs to enter their apartments

Stone filling was placed along the sidewalk in front of A building similar to what was done in front of D building last year.

High expenditures for snow removal have been a result of residents not participating and following the designated procedures for each site.

Resident Services Coordinator report was presented by Sheryl Dougherty.

Energy assistance applications are due May 1st, Community Renewal Team has changed the paperwork requirements resulting in denials for some applicants, this is easily rectified and can be done through me.

Rental Redeterminations are due March 1st. Very few have submitted paperwork, so a push will be made to have residents get those in. Per the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, East Hampton Housing Authority residents will be subject to paying the full market rent should paperwork not be submitted for redetermination.

Comcast Transition Complaint: A meeting was held with the Attorney General's Department of Consumer Protection and multiple high-level executives at comcast. They have yet to acknowledge

billing and procedural issues with the complaint, however, Sheryl is working on bringing Comcast/Xfinity in to both our locations to present Internet Essentials, which will follow with education regarding streaming and lower cost television options.

Commission on Aging report was presented by Bonnie Berkovich.

Bonnie reported that the Commission on Aging is planning presentations of the Senior Needs Survey and developing subcommittees to present plans to the Town Council.

Sheryl will work directly with Bonnie for EHHA residents to be provided this presentation and engage in these subcommittees.

Tenant Commissioner report was presented by Roseanne Amenta.

Roseanne had nothing to report.

Active Business -

CDBG - Jodi Brazal reported the grant remains stuck at the state level. She met with State Representative Quentin Williams (formerly Phipps) the Chair of the State Housing Committee who intended to follow up with those at the state level.

Property for Expansion -Rep. Williams reported his personal relationship a mutual business associate of Matt Bevin, who owns said property in hopes of opening up a dialogue.

Marijuana Policy -

A motion to approve discussion surrounding the proposed marijuana policy was made by Beth Kelpen and seconded by Donna Goodspeed.

Ms. Kelpen states that there is no difference in medical efficacy between smoking or edibles.

Donna reported the existence of marijuana in the form of gummies as an alternative to smoking, she also noted Glastonbury Housing Authorities policy stating no smoking of marijuana anywhere on the property is allowed. Edibles are allowed.

Eric confirmed this stance matches Article 14 of the proposed police which states smoking and vaping are not permitted.

Jodi presented the question, what is the response, if a complaint or report results in the inability to identify the source?

It was agreed that letters to all abutting units would be distributed as a warning and indicating the possibility of fines.

A motion to approve the proposed marijuana policy was made by Donna Goodspeed and seconded by Beth Kelpen. The marijuana policy will be effective thirty days from this approval.

New Business –

Eric requested a motion to open discussion regarding snow removal.

A motion to approve discussion regarding snow removal was made by Beth Kelpen and seconded by Bonnie Berkovich.

Sheryl reported and shared existing snow removal procedures posted on both bulletin boards and reminders in the newsletter to refer to them; they've also been distributed with newsletters previously.

It was agreed to make some adjustments to these printed procedures, distribute them door to door, along with a letter indicating snow removal is included in the rent, if these costs increase it directly affects rental costs.

Dion agreed to continue to make call multiplier messages to let residents know when plowing has been completed.

Vacancy Report -

1 Bellwood 1 Chatham ready for occupancy.

Jodi noted that applications are matched based on need for rental assistance and handicap accessibility. Not all applicants meet these criteria so will not necessarily be placed in vacant units. The one at Bellwood Court requires a tenant who is very ambulatory due to its location and 1 Chatham Court is a double unit.

There are 2 units being readied for March occupancy and 1 unit to be ready for April.

Adjournment

Roseanne moved that the meeting be adjourned, Bonnie seconded, this was agreed upon at 6:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sheryl Dougherty, RSC