

EAST HAMPTON HOUSING AUTHORITY MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

July 20, 2022 6 PM Bellwood Court

Call to Order

A board meeting of the East Hampton Housing Authority was held on 7/20 at 1 Bellwood Court, East Hampton CT. It began at 6:04 and was presided over by Donna Goodspeed

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included Eric Gibson, Donna Goodspeed, Bonnie Berkovich, Beth Keplen(via zoom) Roseanne Amenta

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

Residents in attendance: Barbara Brusseau, Donna DiGregorio, Kathleen Finn, Marilyn Gerzabek, Alberta Hyland, Sally Macha, Linda Nadeau, Shirley Shaw, Fredi Winstanley, Elizabeth "Kelly" Zeitlin

Public attendees: Judith Bobbi, Ann McLaughlin, Pauline "Bunny" Simko

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous May 18, 2022 meeting was made by Eric Gibson and seconded by Roseanne Amenta

Bills - nothing at this time

Communications – None

Public Comment-

Fredi Winstanley 4 Bellwood - commented regarding the tone of the July newsletter, describing it as harsh and condescending.

Judith Bobbi 59 Wangonk Trail - commented regarding the July seventh complaint filed by Sheryl Dougherty to the East Hampton Police department naming her as an individual trespassing onto East Hampton Housing Authority grounds and soliciting residents by knocking on doors. She commented that this was a false complaint, requesting the names of residents who claimed to be solicited and demanded an apology of Sheryl Dougherty threatening a lawsuit accusing her of slander if not received.

Ann McLaughlin 85 N. Main St (no unit provided) commented regarding the lawn care at East Hampton Housing Authority properties. She stated a previous board decision, which she was a part of, to discontinue the contract with a professional landscaping company was a mistake. Ms. McLaughlin also stated that residents should be made part of the decisions on what furnishings are placed in the property community rooms, citing the pool table at Bellwood Court. Ms. McLaughlin urged the Board to review East Hampton Housing Authority By-Laws to ensure they were followed. Ms. McLaughlin demanded to know if Unit 2 Bellwood Court was occupied. Ms. McLaughlin commented that she too was named in the complaint made to the East Hampton Police Department by Sheryl Dougherty and received a visit from them. She insisted upon a correction of the report and an apology. But admits that she did come and took pictures of the property.

Pauline “Bunny” Simko commented that she was the first Resident Service Coordinator at East Hampton Housing Authority. She requested the Board to move the Public Comment agenda item to the bottom of the agenda as residents are entitled to respond to New Business items.

Barbara Brusseau 23 Bellwood commented regarding non-residents continually parking in resident parking areas. Visitor Parking signs are posted and visible. She is requesting some type of enforcement.

Elizabeth “Kelly” Zeitlin D1 Chatham Acres advocating for the residents requested a means to discuss with the Board moving public comments to the end of the board meetings agenda.

Updates & Reports

Executive Director : was presented by Jodi Brazal.

The Auditor was in this week to perform the in-house portion of the annual audit.

The Fee Accountant was in on the same day.

Both the Auditor and Fee Accountant Commended the executive director regarding how well the records and finances are maintained.

Sidewalk in front of A will be covered with asphalt to fix the current issue. Quotes that we received for concrete were running around thirty thousand. With the work beginning on the CDBG project, we will look into cement at a later time.

Commission on Aging report was presented by Bonnie Berkovich.

The Senior Needs survey is due to be presented to the Town Council on September 27th, with a hope of a positive response.

The commission is working to arrange an ice cream social for seniors, it is unsure if this will be an in person gathering or vouchers to a local ice cream shop. The logistics are being discussed.

Tenant Commissioner report was presented by Roseanne Amenta.

Roseanne reported on behalf of Elizabeth “Kelly” Zeitlin D1 Chatham Acres an incident on July 5th in which a resident's alarm was flashing, there seemed to be confusion regarding accessibility to the unit.

Dion Roccapriore - commented that dispatch has the key code and it was a miscommunication between responding officers. The process to access the unit was not at fault.

Roseanne reported on behalf of Marty Higgins A5 Chatham Acres questioning the operability of the handicap access mechanism on the back door of the Chatham Community Room.

Dion - responded that it is being investigated for repair, the company who installed the current device is out of business and a new representative is being sought.

Active Business -

CDBG - reported by Eric Gibson

Our bid package has been approved by the State. We will need to proceed with the next steps through the Town. This includes advertising and bid opening schedules.

Eric is reviewing the specifications, and follow up meetings are being conducted.

The bid process is expected to be at least thirty days, tentatively estimated construction start would be in the November time frame. Supply Chain issues are likely to impact this project.

AEDs for Community Rooms - Jodi reported that we have applied for two grants and have heard back from one that will cover 30% of the costs of AED units only, there is also the cost of cabinets and other accessories. There will be an attempt to apply for more grants in order to do a price comparison. It will then be the response of the board in how this project is moved forward.

New Business – Donna Goodspeed issued a Reminder of No-Trespassing/Solicitation Policy- Staff has gotten complaints from residents that people unaffiliated with the housing authority- meaning that they have no family or business to conduct here have been taking pictures, knocking on doors, and parking and sitting in their cars for hours with out of state plates.

Sheryl Dougherty commented her role as Resident Services Coordinator is to ensure the residents of the East Hampton Housing Authority feel safe and comfortable. When multiple residents bring to her attention questions, concerns and feelings of being unsafe due to behaviors and actions of persons unaffiliated with the property it is her job to advocate for the community and ensure it is addressed.

Vacancy Report -

0 Bellwood 0- Chatham

ADJOURNMENT

Eric moved that the meeting be adjourned Roseanne seconded, this was agreed upon at 7:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sheryl Dougherty, RSC