

GREAT BARRINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

Board Meeting

May 19, 2011

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Drumm, Bob Magee, Deborah Salem, Ariane Blanchard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dana DelGrande

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Heaphy

The meeting was called to order by William Drumm at 2:15 p.m.

Annual Elections:

Bob stated that we should have the elections before the start of the meeting for voting purposes, especially if there was a new member coming on board. There are no new members at this time. Bob motioned that the officers remain the same this year: Bill – chairman, Deborah – vice chairman and Dana – treasurer pending Dana's acceptance since she is not in attendance. Ariane seconded. All members voted in favor. Bob mentioned that he has one more year and won't be seeking re-election.

Garrisons:

Darrin and Kristen Garrison came to the board meeting without notice to Barbara. Kristen claimed that Barbara and Rich entered her apartment twice without reasonable cause. She didn't understand why. Kristen was asked if she had talked to Barbara about this before coming to the meeting. Kristen said the issue was regarding late rent which has been a problem several times in the past but her complaint is that her apartment was entered. Kristen did approach Ariane with her complaint and Ariane told her to bring it to the board meeting. Ariane realizes that Barbara should have been approached first.

Deborah stated that the board doesn't handle rent issues, Barbara does. Deborah encouraged Kristen and Darrin to set up a meeting with Barbara to discuss the issue at hand and come to a conclusion. A meeting was set up for the following Monday at 10:00 a.m.

Ariane added that the plumbers were in Garrison's apartment when Barbara and Rich knocked on the door. According to one of the plumbers, the apartment went silent after the knock. Barbara opened the door and asked if anyone was home. Kristen came to the door looking very confused. She took the fourteen day notice from Barbara along with a letter addressing other issues. She left her apartment screaming and yelling about her rights being violated to Ariane and the neighborhood.

Minutes:

Motion made by Bob, seconded by Deborah to accept the minutes of the April 21st meeting. All members voted in favor.

Check Register:

Ariane asked if we were being reimbursed for the damage to the bus stop. The man responsible for hitting it with his car's insurance covered the damage 100%.

Motion made by Bob to accept the April check register. Ariane seconded it. All members voted in favor.

Executive Director's Report:

Barbara went over the applications on each bedroom size waitlist.

The family that was offered #15 has accepted and will be moving in around June 15th. Another elderly apartment at Flagrock opened up.

Families that are late have been notified. One family was served a 14 day notice.

A past tenant who left owing a large amount of money in 2006 has come forward and is paying it off. She hasn't reapplied yet but probably will. I think there was damage done to the apartment she and her family left as well. I will have to go back and check. She got four churches in Pittsfield to donate money for her back rent.

The heating system project is almost complete. Pittsfield Pipers is waiting for parts for the furnace in #23. It's a different type of a system.

Capital Improvement update:

Barbara will attend a mandatory training in early June and another in July to learn the data impute computer system. After this, the site work at Brookside will begin.

Community Garden: Ariane reported that the garden beds changed to five 12x6's. The beds have been built and the soil delivered. Tomato plants are in and a tenant meeting has been scheduled to talk about planting dates etc. Right now, there are about four tenants involved. Once everything is in the ground, other tenants are welcome to join in and help. Fencing will be installed.

Deborah made a motion to accept the Executive Directors report. Ariane seconded it. All members voted in favor.

Bill brought up the resent issue that Great Barrington is having with Gary O'Brien. It has been in the newspaper that the town is upset with him for violating certain noise and zoning regulations at his property in a residential neighborhood. Even though we are state run, it is important for the Housing Authority to maintain a good relationship with the town and we use Gary O'Brien's as a contractor quite frequently. We will keep a close eye on the outcome of this matter.

Ariane mentioned that back on March 28th, three tenants at Flagrock were issued parking tickets for parking on the street at night and fined \$20. Ariane brought hers to Town Hall in protest because Bernard Gibbons Drive is a private road which is correct. Chief Walsh was made aware of this as well.

The next meeting will be held on June 16th at 2:15 p.m.

Motion made by Bob, seconded by Ariane to adjourn at 3:10 p.m.

All members voted in favor.

Barbara A. Goffy, Secretary