

**Town of Weston
Minutes for Elderly Housing Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2020
Brook School Apartments
Zoom Meeting
Weston, MA 02493**

EHC Members: Tom Timko - Chair, Melissa Brokalakis, Tack Chace, and John Hennessey

Tenants/Public: Paul Bau C30, Nancy Orth D171, and Deborah Namande D63

Town of Weston: Monyette Vickers - BSA Manager, Karin Ott - BSA Housing certification Specialist, and Lisa Yanakakis – Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director

Meeting called to order at 7:55AM

Governor Baker's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of Open Meeting Law was read.

Minutes from the March 10th EHC meeting were accepted.

Brook School Update - Monyette

There are currently five vacancies at Brook School. All application processing and potential tenant interviews have been put on hold due to Covid-19.

The Local Initiative Program (LIP) application, which we hope will eventually add all Building D units to the Weston Affordable Housing Inventory, is being completed by Liz Valenta. It will then need to be approved by the EHC, the Weston Select Board, and finally the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

Monyette thanked all residents for their social distancing efforts. There have been no Coronaviruses reported at BSA. The Council on Aging has been reaching out to Brook School residents offering information and assistance when needed. Monyette is working with individuals at the facilities department on a schedule for all buildings to be sanitized daily. All previously scheduled events have been cancelled and Monyette hopes to reschedule when possible.

Lisa Yanakakis said that the Town is working on having a school nurse available with telephone hours for residents to call in with questions or concerns. Lisa stressed that residents should call their primary care doctor should they have any symptoms.

Monyette has been working on sharing information about Zoom performances, Zoom COA exercise classes, and other online opportunities to help residents remain connected.

Lisa said the next two weeks will be extremely critical in trying to flatten the curve of the virus and stressed the importance of hand washing and social distancing.

Common Area Study Vote on Design – EHC

Monyette gave a brief overview of the three designs that had been emailed to the Board. Design A101 was the preferred design as it had the best access to and offered the most storage units. Board members wanted additional time to review the plans and decided to defer the vote until a later meeting. Lisa said that all emails regarding the designs need to go through Monyette in order to comply with the Open Meeting Laws.

Nancy Orth, a resident waiting for a storage unit, would like the Board not to defer the vote for too long so that once the pandemic restrictions are over construction can begin. Tom said that architects and construction workers are deemed essential workers. Tom would like the Board to vote at the May meeting on the design so BSA can move ahead with the project, starting with putting it out for bid.

John Hennessy suggested and Tack Chace motioned and Melissa seconded that Tom and Monyette select the design. Once the design is selected Monyette and Tom will work with individuals in the facilities department to get the documentation needed and get the construction process underway. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Building E – Tom

There has been no change in the status or discussion of Building E.

Affordable Housing Trust Update – Tom

There is nothing new to report as the Zoning Board meeting was cancelled.

Public Comments

Paul Bau asked if there was a plan in place if a BSA resident has the Coronavirus. Lisa said if a resident is symptomatic they should call his or her doctor or the nurse to be assigned to BSA by the BOA. The resident would be asked to shelter in place and self-quarantine. If a resident tests positive for the virus this/her doctor would notify the Weston Board of Health.

Nancy asked what rules would apply to laundry or a resident's caregiver. Lisa said the Board of Health is working on scenarios like that but each case would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Ed Jarowski is healthy but out until further notice. Kevin Walsh, from the facility department will be available for emergency repairs only.

Lisa encouraged residents to check the Weston Covid-19 link on the Town of Weston online site to stay informed on the virus in Weston, www.weston.org/COVID19.

Tom suggested that the page should highlight new information so it stands out.

John Hennessey suggested that a "buddy system" should be setup for residents to call each other weekly or daily to check in. Nancy said she would be willing help with that. There was some discussion of the benefits and some of potential problems with doing that. Monyette is looking into some more ways to keep the residents from feeling isolated.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 5th at 7:45 AM via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41AM