

**Town of Weston
Minutes for Elderly Housing Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2020
Brook School Apartments
Zoom Meeting
Weston, MA 02493**

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

Tenants/Public: Paul Bau C30

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

Meeting called to order at 7:48AM

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

Minutes from the April 7th Zoom EHC meeting were accepted unanimously.

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.

At this time there are no reports of any cases of Covid-19 at Brook School. All buildings are disinfected and sanitized every day. The Board of Health (BOH) nurses assigned to BSA report that all the residents are doing a great job following the CDC safety guidelines. The stay-at-home advisory has been extended to May 18th and may be further extended.

The Local Initiative Program application to gradually include all Building D units on Weston's Affordable Housing Inventory is being finished by Liz Valenta. It will be emailed to the Board for signatures. After that it will be sent to the Weston Town Manager and to legal council to be reviewed before being submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

John Hennessey asked if any preference was given to applications of Weston residents in need of emergency placement. No emergency placement policies are included in the tenant selection plan.

BOH Nurses are being used instead of a resident buddy system to check up on residents. Nurses call residents once a week to check up on them. The nurses hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12:00-2:00. Ireta Metchik has also been checking in with residents on a regular basis.

St. Julia's has had no requests from residents for food pantry assistance. St. Julia's is willing to provide transportation to and from the food pantry in Lincoln should a resident need assistance. Ireta said the COA food pantry is filling and delivering food requests to approximately 10 BSA residents. She also said that Weston residents have been generously supplying stock for the food pantry. The COA also has volunteers who are willing to shop for residents. Ireta said that it

is unclear if the Land's Sake voucher program, which provides 45 weekly vouchers to eligible seniors, will continue this year. An inquiry was made about the status of the BSA food pantry. The pantry was only occasionally used by two residents. The decision was made to discontinue the BSA pantry as residents have access to the COA pantry.

The BSA landscaping contract is currently out for bid and Monyette expects to decide in the next few weeks.

John asked if the vacant units are ready for occupancy, once a safe move-in date has been established, or do contractors need to be brought in so the work can be done now. Three of the apartments just need the final cleaning done before move-in. The remaining repairs and maintenance will be done once it is safe to do so. The tentative move-in date is July 1st.

Lisa cautioned that the May 18th "reopening" date is more of a target date as that is when the next update is expected from Governor Baker. Weston's Emergency Management Team meets three times a week to review where Weston is on the trends of Covid-19.

Melissa Brokalakis asked if absentee ballots will be available. Lisa said they would be and that Covid-19 is a valid reason for any resident to apply for early absentee ballots.

Monyette said that residents are encouraged to stay socially connected with friends and families during this time of physical distancing through Zoom and other online platforms. Many ideas of virtual entertainment will be included in the May/June Babbling Brook. Ireta spoke about all the resources the COA has available for classes, discussions, and exercise classes. They even have a tutor available to help residents with all their social platforms, (smart phone, tablet, computer, etc.). Residents can call the COA to setup an appointment,

Common Area Study Vote on Design – EHC

Monyette and Tom have been working with the Facilities Department to get estimated costs from the architect as well as bid documents so that they can be presented to the Selectmen and Leon Gaumond, Town Manager, for approval. It is estimated to take up to two months before the project is ready for bidding so the Board would like to get the process moving. Lisa said that bid approval can be done through a Zoom meeting if need be.

Discussion on Building E – Tom

There has been no change in the status or discussion of Building E. The baseline proforma was done a few years ago. The next steps are for the EHC to discuss if they want to move ahead with the process and to submit an application to the Community Preservation Committee by July to get the schematic designs. Tom will check in with Tracy Lembo to find out the timing.

Affordable Housing Trust – Tom

Rent assistance for current residents was the primary focus of the WHAT meeting. Residents should contact Liz Valenta on how to apply. There are a couple of assistance programs in place to which that residents can apply: the Merriam Fund and First Parish Cares. At this time not many residents seem to be affected financially.

Melissa asked if any residents or programs are in need of food donations or shopping assistance. Ireta said that the COA has been able to keep up with the demand.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Lisa wanted to thank Monyette and Karin for all they have been doing to keep BSA safe, with cleaning, policies, and handing out masks. Ireta said that the COA has masks and has been handing them out upon request.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 9th at 7:45 AM in person if safe or via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43AM