

## **GREAT BARRINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Board Meeting  
September 19, 2013  
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Salem, Dana DelGrande, Ariane Blanchard,  
Veronica Cunningham

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann Condon

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Heaphy

The meeting was called to order by Deborah Salem at 2:15 p.m.

### **Minutes:**

Motion made by Dana, seconded by Deborah to accept the August 16th, 2013 minutes. All members voted in favor.

### **Check Register:**

Deborah asked if we had accounts at the several small hardware store listed on the check register. We do, but on occasion we will purchase an item from a company with a credit card. The most recent was a snake for unclogging pipes. Rich found it on line at a good price and it was ordered with a credit card. Deborah mentioned how efficient it would be if there was a central supply company from which Housing Authorities could order in bulk and save money.

Dana made a motion to accept the check register for August. Veronica seconded it. All members voted in favor.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

Currently, there are two vacancies at Brookside. Both apartments are in good shape. I have appointments to show both apartments tomorrow. Hopefully I will get them filled by mid- October at the latest.

Two elderly tenants are late but will pay toward the end of the month. Five families are late and I've sent notices to three. The other two have entered into payment agreements. The past tenant that owes has been paying \$50.00 a month until her debt is paid off.

### **Brookside Manor Sitework:**

The sitework is complete. DelSignore came back and resealed the entire parking area and driveway. The tenants are pleased with the final results. Overall, I think they did a good job. The DHCD construction advisor, Tom Barthelette will be back to make a final inspection.

Deborah mentioned the pine tree that hangs down over the sidewalk at the very south end of Brookside. It needs trimming again. Barbara will mention this to Rich.

### **Dewey Court:**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, two board members, Ann and Ariane came down to tour the property. Ann liked the property. She thought it was a nice setup. The community room and my office were very bright and

cheerful with lots of natural light in my office especially. However, there are drawbacks. There is a propane tank fill valve located on the family lawn, sticking up with a protective barrier of metal posts circling it. This looks dangerous for children outside playing around it. Barbara will see if anything can be done. The vacant apartment in terrible shape and has been vacant for two years now. Both Ann and Ariane were shocked by the condition and the fact that children had lived there. Barbara has gotten three prices from professional cleaners to come in and remove carpeting, kitchen cabinets and thoroughly clean. She has to get final approval from BCRHA before she can move forward. This apartment has a waiver from DHCD until January and if it is still vacant, DHCD will start charging a penalty fee.

Ronnie asked I there is anything that can be done legally to tenants who do damage to an apartment and leave. Barbara said that in the past she has taken tenants to small claims court and has been successful recovering funds.

Another concern is lack of a Dewey Court sign at the entrance of the property. Right now it is easy to miss the entrance because there is only a very small "Dewey Way" street sign. Ronnie has a friend who is a sign painter, Mark Bockman. He is local and Barbara will look into this. It would have to be approved by BCRHA.

### **Appointment to the Community Preservation Committee**

The newly formed Great Barrington Community Preservation Committee requires a Housing Authority board member to serve a three year term on their committee. This is stated in their bylaw. Ariane appointed Deborah Salem to serve on this committee and she accepted. All members voted in favor. Deborah is very committed to preserving the land in Great Barrington. Also, the Housing Authority could utilize CPA funding toward acquisition, creation, preservation and support of our public housing.

Ariane asked if we could discuss putting up a playground unit for the children at Flagrock.

Motion made by Deborah, seconded by Dana & Ronnie to adjourn at 3:00. All members voted in favor.

Next meeting is October 17, 2013