

GREAT BARRINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY  
Meeting In-person at Great Barrington Town Hall 334 Main St., Great Barrington, MA  
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER: Attendance Roll Call, decorum requirements.

Chairman John Grogan opened the meeting at 11:00am with Board members John Grogan, Eileen Mooney, Phil Orenstein, Jackie Sinico present.

Absent: Executive Director Tina Danzy

J. Grogan stated the Zoom link for the meeting is not working so agenda items cannot be discussed – also T. Danzy is absent. It was agreed that the agenda topics would be moved to the next meeting.

J. Grogan stated that there are decorum and Roberts Rules of Order requirements for meetings that must be followed. He noted this includes being respectful of others and allowing time and opportunity for attendees to speak uninterrupted.

II. LTO Report

Marlene Koloski, LTO lead, read a statement. She asked that GBHA tenants be respected, both seniors and families, by the office and board. She described concerns about families that struggle to pay rent and encouraged an approach that keeps them in their homes rather than pursuing evictions which are disruptive and costly for tenants. She also stated that the GBHA office can be dismissive of tenants and not responsive to their concerns - and she suggested that the office review DHCD handbook. She noted tenants are feeling alienated and there is less of a sense of community – and she emphasized that DHCD wants tenants to stay in their homes and to be engaged – she added that attendance at events has dwindled. She also stated home repairs are not handled well and take significant time to address. She also encouraged that tenants should be allowed to volunteer to do help keep up and beautify the properties.

J. Grogan stated tenants who have issues that they would like addressed should file grievances and the process must be followed which includes the office being the first to review grievances. M. Koloski stated grievances must be heard by a mediator/Hearing Officer that is pre-approved by the LTO. E. Mooney asked for an update on identifying a Hearing Officer – J. Grogan replied it was Executive Director Tina Danzy's position that Berkshire Mediators would be good for some grievances, but not all – and he added that he has reached out to them. M. Koloski stated nine grievances are being filed.

It was clarified that the Board is not deliberating on any topics.

E. Mooney suggested a continued discussion when T. Danzy is present.

III. Citizen Speak

1. Maureen, resident, asked about maintenance allowing tenants to prune and do clean up.

J. Sinico stated residents are allowed to do clean up. J. Grogan stated anything that entails using a ladder is a potential risk/liability. The residents disagreed.

2. Joanne, resident, asked about reimbursement for Flag Rock residents for expenses related to Housatonic water – P. Orenstein replied funds are not yet in hand and he has discussed with the Town Manager how to streamline the process for Flag Rock residents. He noted the process is still being worked on, but the Town is aware of the special circumstances with Flag Rock resident water bills. Receipts for purchases was also discussed and it was clarified that they are required by the state. P. Orenstein continued to state that \$300 per household is available and there may be a second round of reimbursements if there are funds remaining. P. Orenstein offered to collect questions and address them with the Town Manager. J. Grogan added that Flag Rock individual households would be eligible and there is no interest in giving funds to the office to distribute.
3. Rosemary, resident, asked that notice be provided when there is staining – and it was confirmed there the office did not receive notice either.

It was confirmed that bear proof garbage cans being delivered at Dewey this week.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be November 1 at 1:00pm.

IV. Adjournment - **J. Sinico made a motion to adjourn; E. Mooney seconded. All in favor: 4-0.**  
The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:00pm.

Documents discussed: M. Koloski provided a copy of her statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow