

MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2023,
GREAT BARRINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD

Meeting as a Policy Subcommittee

The in-person meeting was called for 11 a.m. at Flag Rock Village community room at 2 Bernard Gibbons Drive to review policies. It began at 11:23 as member Philip Orenstein was late. Present were board members Mr. Orenstein, chairman John Grogan and Eileen Mooney, who took the minutes; executive director Tina Danzy; assistant to the executive director Madonna Meagher; and tenants Jackie Sinico, Ann Pruhenski, Bob Siok, and Rosemary Besancon.

Mr. Grogan said he was unhappy with the approach to policy review. Board members had been assigned policies to review and then present to the board. Ms. Danzy suggested that all three board members review the policies decided upon for discussion and possible votes. There was no formal vote but all three board members expressed agreement with this.

Six policies were on the agenda for discussion but none was discussed. Assigned for discussion and possible votes at the next meeting were snow removal, smoking and rent collection, plus a new one for gardening. Ms. Danzy said she wants an enforceable step on the smoking policy and will send board members a revised policy and a proposed one on gardening.

Mr. Orenstein said the smoking policy should restate that smoking in units is not allowed and the tenant is responsible for any resulting smoke damage that results. The GBHA has the right to put smoking detectors in an apartment, he thought. Ms. Danzy said she is investigating different models and costs. Mrs. Pruhenski asked whether she would be responsible for smoke damage because she had smoked but stopped six years ago. Mr. Grogan and Ms. Danzy said she would not be because she is not now violating the policy.

No date was set for the next meeting on policy.

During Citizen Speak, Ms. Besancon noted there are no lights near the area where dogs are to be taken according to the pet policy. Bears, fox and coyotes are around, she said. Ms. Danzy said she had not realized it was dark there and she will install two solar lights, adding this would be if funds are available. Ms. Besancon also said that she saw an intruder at 4 a.m. when she was walking her dog. (After the meeting, she said that was about three months ago; he was identified as living on a nearby street.)

There were no other comments and no board comments. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Mooney, seconded by Mr. Grogan and voted by them and Mr. Orenstein.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Mooney