

Boxborough Housing Board Meeting
May 19, 2022
(In Person)

Housing Board Members Attending: Diane Friedman, Dolores Fromer, Al Murphy (chair), Jessi Robinson, Korinne Stephens, Ron Vogel, Channing Wagg (meeting secretary)

Housing Board Member Not in Attendance: n/a

Finance Committee Liaison: Maria Neyland (not in attendance) Becky Neville

Invited Guest: Les Fox

NOTE: This meeting was held jointly with the trustees of the Boxborough Affordable Housing Trust. Members in attendance: L. Fox (chair) A. Murphy, Ms. Neville, R. Vogel and guest, Brian Lynch.

I. Information Items

Chair Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. He reported that:

1. The Boxborough Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) was funded again by vote of ATM,
2. The loan request by a Boxborough Meadows affordable unit resident was approved,
3. There is a need to up-date the various BRAP application and related forms.

II. Minutes

The minutes of the April 4 meeting were not discussed or reviewed.

III. Old Business

Chair Murphy commented briefly on the testing of the Boxborough Meadows affordable housing unit wells. Eleven of the twelve wells tested free of hazard. The other well did not; uranium exceeded the approved safety limits by about a factor of four. This well is the well of the Stephens family, and Korinne Stephens provided a detailed account of the deleterious effect the condition has had on the health of her and her family. The point was made that an un-remediated well makes the unit uninhabitable. There ensued a lengthy discussion of the above referenced problem's scope, its likely solution/cost and the responsibility of the Boxborough Housing Board in this matter.

The first step was to provide for funds to reimburse the expenses of testing the several wells. A motion to this effect was made to wit:

It is moved that the Boxborough Housing Board [BHB] request that the Boxborough Affordable Housing Trust [BAHT] provide the BHB an allocation of \$10,000 for reimbursement of the costs of testing wells of affordable housing unit owners that are not served by a public water supply for hazardous contaminants.

The motion was seconded, discussed, and passed unanimously.

The second step was taken by the trustees of the BAHT who passed a motion approving the allocation of \$10,000 for the purpose described in the above BHB motion regarding testing. This included that the trustees of the BAHT request the town accountant to set up an account (812-177-5799-xxxx) to track expenditures against said allocation.

The third step was to create a BHB policy regarding its position on remediation of the current and future water related hazard affecting the affordable housing unit owner at [address to be provided]. A motion to this effect was made to wit:

It is moved that the BHB approve and request from the BAHT a sum not to exceed \$20,000 for the purpose of fully remediating the health safety of the well at 3 Macleod Way via reimbursement of the unit's owner for appropriately substantiated expenses to achieve same.

The motion was seconded, discussed, and passed by a vote of six aye and one abstention.

The fourth step was taken by the trustees of the BAHT who passed a motion approving the allocation of \$20,000 for the purpose described in the above BHB motion regarding remediation.

It was agreed that the unit owner would present quotes for the above referenced work to the BHB at its next meeting which was scheduled for June 1.

IV. Other Old Business

Chair Murphy:

1. Commented further but briefly on the necessity to up-date the BRAP forms for FY 2024.
2. Presented a request for a BRAP current participant for an extension of program coverage. This was discussed and a motion made and passed to permit the participant to remain so until the end of the BRAP fiscal year.
3. Noted that the pertinent BRAP form should be annotated to require program participants to enroll for participation in the Section 8 and MRVP programs.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Chair Murphy commented on the new HUD SMSA figures.

VI. Adjournment

Chair Murphy asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was so made, seconded, and unanimously approved at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Channing Wagg, meeting secretary