

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Groton Housing Authority
Board of Commissioners
July 21, 2021
7:00 PM

1. ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
 - .. MEMBERS PRESENT: Deirdre Slavin-Mitchell
Don Black, Member
Leslie Colt, Asst. Treasurer
John Sopka, Member
 - .. MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniel Emerson, Treasurer
 - .. OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Larrabee

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: The Executive Director introduced her per diem office helper, Linda Williams to the Board. She told the Board that Linda is helping out temporarily to get the office back under control due to COVID.

Don Black told the Board that a cemetery plot for Brooks Lyman has been offered to the family.

3. CHECK REGISTER:
 - .. MAY 2021: A motion was made by Leslie Colt and seconded by Don Black to approve the check register for May 2021. All Members present voted AYE.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:
 - .. REVIEW AND APPROVE APRIL 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:
 - DHCD Consolidated: A motion was made by Don Black and seconded by Leslie Colt to approve the DHCD Consolidated Programs Financial Statement for April 2021. All Members present voted AYE.
 - Sandy Pond Road: A motion was made by Don Black and seconded by Leslie Colt to approve the Sandy Pond Road Program Financial Statements for April 2021. All Members present voted AYE.
 - Still Meadow: A motion was made by Don Black and seconded by John Sopka to approve the Still Meadow Program Financial Statements for April 2021. All Members present voted AYE.

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5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

.. May 19, 2021, REGULAR MEETING: A motion was made by Don Black and seconded by Leslie Colt to approve the minutes from our May 19, 2021, regular meeting. All Members present voted AYE. John Sopka mentioned that he saw some grammatical errors that should be changed to make the minutes read correctly. The Executive Director changed the errors on the minutes. A motion was made by John Sopka and seconded by Don Black to approve the amended meeting minutes for May 19, 2021. All Members present voted AYE.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

.. COVID-19 UPDATE: The Executive Director told the Board that we are going to apply for rental assistance for our State Aided Public Housing Tenants through a program named SHERA. She is hoping to collect most of the rent owed by tenants through the pandemic from the SHERA Program.

.. NASHUA ROAD INFORMATION: Don Black reported to the Board that he had a meeting with Russ Burke of the Planning Board to let him know what our plans are concerning the Nashua Road Parcel. He told Mr. Burke that we want to build housing for our Groton Residents and not necessarily bring in outsiders. Don said Mr. Burke supports this. Don proposed that he draft a warrant for the Fall Town Meeting to have the Mutual Aid Parcel transferred to us. The Board agreed with him. No vote was taken since in a previous meeting the Board voted to let Don pursue this and this would be the next step in his efforts.

.. DISCUSS HOUSING SUMMIT: Deirdre Slavin-Mitchell discussed the basics of the Housing Summit. She told the Board that the Diversity Task Force wanted to have a Housing Summit to bring in people who impact housing. She said that those who attended reported on their piece of housing. She said it was a public meeting and those who attended felt that they learned something from the summit. She said there will be a non-public housing summit with housing groups in town at a later time. John Sopka mentioned that we have a Housing Production Plan, but the problem is that we do not have enough property in town to develop housing on.

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7. OLD BUSINESS:

.. FORMALLY WELCOME JOHN SOPKA TO THE BOARD: The Board formally welcomed John Sopka to the Board and thanked him for stepping forward to help the Groton Housing Authority as a Board Member.

.. UPDATE ON FAMILY UNITS' PORCH AND DOORS PROJECT: The Executive Director told the Board that we have not received the materials to start this project yet.

8. OTHER BUSINESS AS NEEDED: The Board asked what was going on with the overflowing dumpster. The Executive Director turned this over to Linda Williams who explained that due to COVID they are short on drivers and missed picking up our trash last week. The Executive Director also said that she has been told other people who do not live here are dumping their trash here. The Board suggested getting a sign for the dumpster to alert people that the dumpster is only for residents of the Groton Housing Authority. Don Black told the Board that he is in violation of the LHA training request. He said the reason for it is on their end and that he keeps trying to get into the training to complete it.

**AT 8:03 PM A MOTION WAS MADE BY DON BLACK AND SECONDED BY JOHN SOPKA TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED AYE. THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021, 7:00 PM AT 19 LOWELL ROAD, GROTON, MA.