



State Representative: Chaz Sexton-Diranian (2022)

Chairman: Laura E. Shifrin (2021)

Clerk: Natalie Call (2024)

Vice Chairman: Courtney Borelli (2023)

Tenant Seat: Vacancy (2024)

MINUTES

Wednesday February 24, 2021

Via ZOOM 7:00PM

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING AND ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
TOWNSEND HOUSING AUTHORITY

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86360890350?pwd=T011QURWaXc5VjdGa1g1ckJpRktMdz09>

Meeting ID: 863 6089 0350

Passcode: 919241

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Preliminaries:

1.1 Meeting called to order at 7:04PM

1.2 Roll Call showed Chairman Laura Shifrin (LS), Vice Chairman Courtney Borelli (CB), State Rep Chaz Sexton-Diranian (CSD), Clerk Natalie Call (NC) and Chairman of the Housing Trust Fund, Joan Savoy (JS) present.

1.3 Announced the meeting is being recorded

1.4 Pledge of Allegiance observed

1.5 Chairman's Additions/Deletions to Agenda unforeseen prior to 48 hours of this meeting LS reported that she attended the Local Initiative Program (LIP); lot of good information including new ideas to increase housing. LS received the online



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census report and began filling it out, but it contains all administrative questions, so she will pass it along to Housing Admin.

- 1.6 State Representative Report – CSD attended two recent state meetings; discussed increasing to housing and a potential change to zoning laws that may allow certain communities to build. Still requesting Local Housing Authority Boards to think outside the box for housing solutions. CSD met with the Board of Selectmen at last night's meeting and confirmed that the Housing warrant article has been submitted for Town Meeting. CSD is working on getting Dudley Road property as a charitable donation. CB moved to have CSD write a letter to State Rep. Sheila Harrington to transfer Dudley Road property from the town to the trust. NC seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

2.Appointments 7:15PM

- 2.1 Sheila Harrington (SH) Discussed the housing shortage. SH believes that there will be a conversion of commercial buildings after pandemic that may alleviate some of that shortage. SH also attended LIP, continued discussion on housing shortfalls and potential solutions.

3.Work session:

- 3.1 CBDG Fuel Assistance Update-JS reported on fuel assistance grant (CDBG) that came to town in 2018, for approximately \$26,000. Because there was no grant administrator in place at that time, the funds have not been touched. For a town resident to qualify for this fuel assistance, the resident first must go through New England Farm Workers and exhaust their benefit (which is \$450), they fill out another application and wait for assistance. SH asked who oversees the grant-Community Opportunities Group (COG), which JS explained is out of Boston, which makes it more difficult to administer. JS also reported that town residents do not know this fuel assistance exists. CSD said that the Housing Authority and the Housing Trust Fund went to the Board of Selectmen and are trying to find a more streamlined way to expedite this process, as well as advertise that the assistance is available. CSD expressed how frustrating it is trying to get these funds in to the public as the Housing Authority and Housing Trust are told that this grant has nothing to do with either Board, which is not the case.



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3.2 Worthy Fund Update-JS said that there is nothing new to report at this time. SH said that Groton has a similar fund and suggested reaching out to Karen Tuomi, who runs the Fund in Groton, for guidance.

3.3 Submitted Warrant Article to reallocate feasibility funds RE: Dudley Road. CSD confirmed that the Warrant Article has been submitted for town meeting.

3.4 Newly adopted State Law regarding Tenant Seat Members to Local Housing Authorities. Reviewed the updated process for posting for a tenant seat member. Discussed sending out mailers to tenants at the various housing properties in town. CSD discussed the fact that the state has said the vacancy is not to be advertised as a tenant seat, which is confusing. SH offered to try to call in to the state for clarification on this process. LS asked for a motion for the posting to be updated and reviewed. CB moved to have CSD update the vacant seat posting and to have Town Counsel review it for approval. NC seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

3.5 Correspondence/Clerk's Announcements:

3.51 Open space Committee Member opening for 'at-large' member

3.52 Capital Planning Openings

3.53 Town of Townsend Affordable Housing Trust Opening

3.54 Other town openings on many boards

3.6 Review and sign bills payable warrant. CSD moved to approve and authorize Chairman to sign bills payable warrant out of session. NC seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

3.7 Approve meeting minutes. CSD moved to approve the minutes for July 25, 2019. NC seconded. Roll call vote unanimous. CSD moved to approve meeting minutes from January 21, 2021 with edits, CB seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

Next Meeting Date: March 26, 2021 at 7:30PM

NC moved to adjourn at 8:40PM CB seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.