



## Burlington Housing Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2021 via Cisco Webex

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**Committee Members Present:** Mike Runyan, Chair  
Ernie Covino, Vice Chair  
Kerry Donahue, Secretary  
Bob Young

**Committee Members Not Present:** Charles Viveiros  
Henry Wu

**Other Attendees:** Anne-Marie Moglia, Burlington Housing Authority  
Eileen Sickler

- Mike Runyan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm
- Mike Runyan let the committee know that Phyllis Etsell resigned today from committee; Bob Young suggested the town send her a thank you letter or flowers, Mike Runyan agreed to reach out to town on this.

### Election of Officers

- Before the committee voted, Mike Runyan brought up idea of term limits; rotating positions invites greater participation. Suggests no member would remain in same office for more than 2 consecutive years. Ernie Covino agreed it is a good idea, made the motion, unanimously approved.
- Bob Young nominated Mike Runyan as Chair, seconded by Kerry Donahue, unanimously approved
- Mike Runyan nominated Ernie Covino as Vice Chair, Kerry Donahue seconded, unanimously approved
- Bob Young nominated Kerry Donahue as Secretary, Ernie Covino seconded, unanimously approved

### Burlington Housing Authority

- Anne-Marie Moglia, Executive Director of the Burlington Housing Authority gave an overview of the Authority, its funding, and its mission. Authority is state-funded, and somewhat disconnected from the town; owns 2 senior housing properties (105 units, long waiting list), 2 single-family units (low turnover), and manages 93 Section 8 vouchers.
- Eileen Sickler asked for clarification of the idea of Burlington residents can take their Section 8 voucher to another state; Anne-Marie Moglia indicated yes, per HUD regulations, they can.
- Bob Young asked Anne-Marie Moglia how long she's been with the Authority (she has been there since 2018, though has worked at housing authorities for 26 years) and how long the waiting list is for the senior units. Anne-Marie Moglia explained the CHAMP application and how candidates for

housing are ranked by their town(s) of preference; waiting list roughly 2 years. She explained there is interest and need for more housing for seniors in town, but not funding.

- Ernie Covino asked for clarification of how many bedrooms in senior housing (103 one-bedroom, 2 handicap-accessible two-bedroom) and how families in single-family units are charged rent (straight percentage of their income).
- Ernie Covino suggested the Housing Partnership Committee meet perhaps annually with the Housing Authority Board; Mike Runyan and Anne-Marie Moglia will work together to arrange an upcoming meeting of the two groups.
- Ernie Covino asked about the property the Housing Authority owns on Adams Street; Anne-Marie Moglia says there are no plans for development (land is largely inaccessible).
- Mike Runyan suggests putting Authority's application link on the Partnership Committee's website
- Kerry Donahue clarified one issue with Section 8 vouchers being used locally is tenants need to find a landlord who will accept them, which is often difficult but during the pandemic, Section 8 vouchers have become desirable because they are guaranteed rent (while many tenants have lost jobs/income and eviction moratoria prevents landlords from doing anything about it). Biden Administration Housing Plan prioritizes fully funding Section 8 program (currently only 1 in 4 eligible families gets a voucher): Anne-Marie Moglia says if HUD puts more funding into Section 8 she would not get more funding or vouchers (limited to 93).
- Anne-Marie Moglia explained that many Section 8 voucher holders are also in affordable housing units which means they are effectively using 2 programs to house one family.

#### **Old Business/New Business**

- Mike Runyan has asked budget town director Whitney Haskell to provide the group with some financial accounting, etc. Committee encouraged to reach out to her with questions/information they'd like to receive.
- 117 South Bedford Street is near complete, Mike Runyan anticipates it'll be ready in April to offer to a first time homebuyer, Liz Rust will administer lottery.
- One of the condos at Seven Springs recently became available, Liz Rust will administer lottery
- Kerry Donahue asked about the town Housing Coordinator position, if it will be filled since Jim Doherty resigned the position; Mike Runyan doesn't know.
- Next meeting scheduled for February 11; Kerry Donahue suggested we check with Committee members not in attendance to see if that date works for them; Mike Runyan indicated they receive all Committee emails and meeting invitations.
- Mike Runyan adjourned meeting at 7:10 pm.