

**Housing Authority of the Town of Somers
Special Meeting May 30, 2012
Woodcrest Community Room – 63 Battle Street
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30

2. Attendance

Marylou Hastings, Bob Landry, David Pinney, and approximately 30 Woodcrest residents

3. Review existing policies regarding residents planting and otherwise decorating around entrances to their apartments.

A memo from Brooke dated May 10, 2012, and distributed to all residents was reviewed. It addressed policies pertaining to residents planting outside their apartments and also reviewed some concerns on smoking outside of others' residences. The Commissioners present affirmed that the Housing Authority had adopted a policy allowing residents to plant annuals in the mulched areas immediately adjacent to the front and rear entrances to their apartments. Outside of having a plot in the community gardens, no additional planting was authorized. The Commissioners also affirmed that violation of this policy would be regarded as a lease violation and that repeated offenses could lead to eviction.

Brooke's memo discussed specifically some planting of lilac bushes, which was indeed a violation of the policy. Most of these have since been removed, but not all. Bob Landry suggested that the residents might like to establish a committee among themselves that would consider ways to enhance the appearance of the property with more plantings. This committee could develop proposals for such projects with the expectation that the members of same would supply most of the labor and materials required along with subsequent maintenance of the installations. The proposals would be presented to the Housing Authority for consideration and potential approval. There was broad support and general consensus for the idea. Whether or not to keep the remaining lilacs would be an example of the first proposal such a group should work on.

4. Review other resident questions and concerns.

4.1. Some residents confirmed that smoking by neighbors and visitors outside another resident's windows creates health and nuisance issues. The commissioners will review with management.

4.2. Residents have cleaned up the picnic area in the center of the complex. There is concern that broken branches from the October storm still hang in nearby trees, threatening people who gather under them. There is also a heavy population of black ants throughout the area. Additionally there is an interest in improving the area in the front of #63 where there is a firepit and picnic tables into a more accessible and appealing picnic area.

4.3. Residents asked about hanging hummingbird feeders in the complex.

4.4. Residents also asked about using patio blocks to expand the seating area at their front or rear entrances. Each of these last three items will be reviewed with management.

4.5. Concern was raised about gutters not draining properly, especially some damaged last year by storm Irene or the snowstorm.

4.6. People continue to have doors with gaps or that stick. Efforts to adjust or modify with alternative weather-stripping have not solved all of the problems, but residents feel frustrated in their inability to keep management or the development team engaged until the problem is solved.

- 4.7. There was much support for replacing grass with stone around outside compressor units and in recessed areas of the building walls. Each of these concerns will be discussed with the development team and management.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50

Respectfully submitted,

David Pinney