



*Low income housing- supporting independence, creating opportunities*

## **Minutes of Special Emergency Meeting**

To: Commissioner Patricia Green  
Commissioner Gary Stroud  
Chair Elisha Underwood  
Commissioner Suzie Walker  
Vice Chair Michelle Wright

The meeting was noticed on BHP website, Hayes Court Property and robo call, and Facebook. You are hereby notified that the October 25, 2024, Special Emergency meeting of Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board of Commissioners will be held at 4:00 at the Hayes Court Community Room, 50 Garfield Drive, Brattleboro, VT

1. Chair Underwood called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm . Also in attendance were Vice Chair Wright, Commissioner Stroud, Executive Director (ED) Hazzard, BHP staff members Lorelei Morrissette, Jeff Rose and Susanne Shapiro, Assistant Chief Jeremy Evans and Police liaison Knowles Wentworth of the Brattleboro Police Department and Hayes Court Residents. Commissioner Green and Commissioner Walker were unable to attend meeting due to the emergency planning.
2. Commissioners introduced themselves, and then ED Hazzard, Assistant Chief Evans and Knowles Wentworth introduced themselves.
3. Board heard resident/citizen participation and questions specifically related to recent safety concerns and shootings on the Hayes Court Property:
  - a. Residents expressed fear and frustration about the two shootings, many felt like nothing was being done and that they are afraid in their own homes
  - b. Many shared that they cannot understand why the people associated with the apartment are still able to be here
  - c. Residents are frustrated that BHP cannot tell them what is happening and that things take so long
  - d. Residents shared that the suspected drug dealing is ongoing
  - e. Residents questioned BHP's policies about unauthorized guests and asked how BHP deals with these situations
  - f. Residents want to know what BHP and the police can do to keep them safe.
  - g. Board Chair Underwood replied to the group that the board understands their concerns and will work with ED Hazzard to address everything possible
  - h. ED Hazzard shared that BHP has hired Hunter North to offer security on the property in the evenings, increased outdoor lighting on the property, added cameras to the interior and exterior of certain buildings, received or is in the process of receiving estimates for cameras for the interior and exterior of all buildings as well as locks for all exterior doors.

*It is the mission of Brattleboro Housing Partnerships to ensure the provision of quality low income and affordable housing within viable communities to support independence and create opportunity*

- i. Assistant Chief Evans gave information about the three different ways to give information to the police:
    - a. Call 911 if you are in immediate danger or to report a crime in progress
    - b. Call the Brattleboro Police department dispatch at 802-257-7946 to report a crime which has already happened, talk to a dispatcher or file a report
    - c. Call the Tip Line 802-251-8188 or email [bptips@brattleboro.gov](mailto:bptips@brattleboro.gov) to report suspicious activity or to share information with the Police Department. This is checked once a day.
    - d. The police dispatch and the tip line can be done anonymously
  - j. Assistant Chief Evans told the group that situations like a shooting are at the top of the list for things the police focusses on, and that the investigation of the shooting this week at Hayes Court take precedent over everything else.
  - k. Knowles Wentworth shared that the Police Liaison is an employee of HCRS but works within the police department to help with crisis response after events such as this, with welfare checks and supporting people who are victims of crimes.
  - l. ED Hazzard addressed the steps BHP takes when dealing with serious lease violations and building a case to go to trial to terminate a lease.
  - m. ED Hazzard and Assistant Chief reminded the group that it is important to continue to share information with the police department and BHP
  - n. The board thanked the group for attending and said they planned to review the information and to decide with ED Hazzard on short and long term steps to address safety at Hayes Court
4. Commissioner Stoud made a motion to adjourn the special meeting, Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion, approved 3-0 at 5:25pm.

*Christine Hazzard*

**BHP Secretary**

**10/27/2024**