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Special Meeting
Stonington Housing Authority
Edythe K. Richmond Homes
Community Building
June 13, 2016
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:
Chair Tom Hyland called the special meeting of the Stonington Housing to order at 4:02 p.m.
ROLL CALL:
Those in attendance were Chairman Tom Hyland, Commissioner Kate Careb, Commissioner Beth Leamon, Executive Director Elaine Schmidt, First Selectman Rob Simmons, Tom Wholean and Dave Tranchida

First Selectman Simmons gave an introduction of the history of the creation of the housing authority in 1974 and the role of the housing authority with the Town.

Chair Hyland asked Tom Wholean for his comments.

Tom Wholean stated that under CGS, the First Selectman appoints the commissioners and further stated that the town paved the road and plows the snow on Sisk Drive, Trumbull and Fellows St. and he is baffled that this is not a Town site. First Selectman Simmons gave examples of other town roads that the Town plowed that were private. Tom Wholean stated that the Town requested approval years ago to put in a sidewalk along the side of his property for the elderly residents of EKR to be able to walk to Courtland Street and he approved it. He stated that he has been walking his dog on the property for years and if his dog jumps up and barks or hurts someone that he had insurance. He had permission from the previous Director to ride bikes on the road but not on the sidewalk. He stated that his son did ride on the road but once in a while he would go up onto the sidewalk. He asked ED Schmidt if her dog was registered in the town she lived. ED Schmidt explained the dog was a National approved Service Dog. Commissioner Leamon spoke about the property as a private property and the issues that were voiced by residents who attended the last Board of Commissioners meeting on June 9, 2016. Chair Hyland stated about 15 to 20 residents attended while only 5 residents spoke about their concern of their safety. Tom Wholean said he has only spoken with 1 resident about the property being private. Commissioner Careb stated she joined the Board because she was interested in the safety of the residents and wanted to make sure they felt safe. She said there were a number of residents at the meeting who expressed they did not feel safe. She also spoke about the comment from a resident, do we not have rights because we're poor. Residents did state at the meeting on June 9, 2016 that they wanted to be good neighbors but they also wanted the neighbors to respect their privacy. Chair Hyland, and Commissioners Careb and Leamon all stated that the goal was to be a good neighbor but also make sure the residents felt safe and right now they did not. Chair Hyland extended an invitation to the July 14th meeting of the Board and especially asked Tom Wholean and Dave Tranchida if they could attend. He said we would get some flyers out to the area residents and ask them to join the next Board meeting on July 14, 2016. This would allow the residents at EKR to speak to the area residents about their safety concerns. It was agreed by all that the residents of EKR

need to voice their concerns and decide whether to allow area residents to walk, ride bikes or bring dogs onto the property.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Careb, Secretary