

MINUTES
Boxborough Housing Board
Thursday, July 24, 2014

Housing Board Members Present: Al Murphy, Chair, Michael Fetterman, Diane Friedman
Others Present: Adam Duchesneau, Town Planner; Warren Ryder,
Boxborough Police Chief

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

I. Request from Police Chief to Use the 72 Stow Road Property for Police Training Activities

Police Chief Ryder indicated that the Police Department would like to use the property at 72 Stow Road for training exercises. He noted that no live firearms or ammunition would be used at the property but instead plastic training weapons would be used in role playing exercises. Mr. Murphy indicated that the Housing Board simply wanted to know more about what the Police Department was going to specifically use the property for and ensure that it would not do anything to the property that would limit its development potential for the future. Mr. Fetterman asked if the training exercises would generate any substantial noises. Chief Ryder indicated that the currently proposed exercises would not, but once the buildings are scheduled for demolition he may come back to the Housing Board and Board of Selectmen to ask for permission to conduct other types of training activities. He did note that police dogs would be used in some of the training exercises which may create some dog barking.

Mr. Murphy stated that the Housing Board wanted to do everything it could to be a good neighbor and to keep the abutter's possible concerns and interests in mind. He suggested that perhaps a notification letter could be distributed indicating when the training exercises would be occurring and with contact information if the abutters had any questions. Chief Ryder indicated that the Police Department could do whatever the Housing Board thought would be best in terms of outreach to the neighbors. Mr. Murphy stated that whatever the Police Department could do to be courteous to the abutters would be appreciated.

Mr. Fetterman asked if the abutters would need a voice in this matter. Chief Ryder suggested that he could modify the letter he had distributed to the Housing Board members to provide contact information for himself, the Housing Board, and the Town Planner. Mr. Fetterman indicated that would be helpful and that the more notification to abutters there could be, the better. Chief Ryder indicated that the police could provide many different venues for the abutters to voice their concerns. Mr. Fetterman then asked if this type of activity had occurred previously at the property, or in Boxborough for that matter. Mr. Murphy indicated that a Fire Department training exercise had occurred at the property before.

Mr. Fetterman then MADE a MOTION to allow the Police Department to perform training exercises at the 72 Stow Road property as approved by the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Friedman SECONDED the MOTION. All members voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.