



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

MARBLEHEAD HOUSING AUTHORITY (MHA) – 5-27-25

LWVM Observer – Cathy Marie Michael

Board members present: Jenn Schaeffner, Bill Kuker, Terri Tauro, Kristin DuBay Horton, Jean Eldridge. Executive Director: Cathy Hoog

Cathy Hoog report and Board Discussion:

- MHA was awarded a grant to share with Salem Housing Authority to establish a self-sufficiency program. A social worker will be hired.
- The recent dance was well attended
- Rolling Food Pantry - going very well
- Ideas to discuss with Magic Hat
- Police Department is committed to working with us; MHA has a good working relationship with them
- 27 work orders completed this month by Maintenance
- 8 vacancies, 6 offers pending
- Jenn suggested they set up a training on the application process. For example - why does one person get selected but another doesn't? They will speak with Sharon Doliber at COA and set up a training in July so it appears in the July COA calendar. Cathy Hoog then suggested they have rolling training in various places
- Discussed Federal funding cuts but do not yet know how that will affect MHA
- Winn Project - moving along with Due Diligence; residents are appreciative; still in preliminary stage
- Teri Tauro brought up the amount of disinformation about town, conflating 3A with MHA. To try to stay ahead of it the Board will disseminate information.
- Exterior Locks - Residents do not want to carry around 2 keys; they feel no need, but Cathy Hoog feels it's needed for security and safety
- Kristin brainstorming new creative ideas such as elderly residents teaching reading to elementary age children or working in gardens together. Kristin has seen many 3-minute videos with these ideas. Everyone liked it. They will begin the next board meeting by watching one of these videos, followed by a discussion
- Resident engagement meeting. They have a staff member, Laura, in charge of resident engagement. Residents are interested in checking in with Laura, understanding what she does and participating in activities so they too can mingle and get to know the residents.