

MINUTES: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION (subject to approval)

Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 6:00 P.M. Remote

Members in attendance: L. Bombalecki, J. Byrne, D. Cutillo, E. Oppenheimer, R. Rimmer

Visitors: R. Podolsky (Connecticut Legal Services), M. Yanus (Clinton Fair Rent Commission), N. Gorski, W. Joyce, L. Lefko, R. Pleines, E. Unger, J. Vece

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M.
2. Introduction of Members
Members of the Fair Rent Commission introduced themselves.
3. Review of the Fair Rent Commission Charge
N. Gorski indicated the Fair Rent Commission can receive and investigate rent complaints, issue subpoenas, hold hearings, and order landlords to reduce rents for specific reasons. When a commission finds the housing in question fails to comply with any local or state health or safety requirement, it may suspend rent payments until the housing is in compliance. A commission may also order a landlord to cease any retaliatory action against a tenant who complains to it. A commission must hold a hearing before taking any action. A fair rent commission's purpose is to "control and eliminate excessive rental charges." The law also states that anyone who violates a commission order or subpoena is subject to a fine.
4. Introduction of Guests
N. Gorski introduced guests R. Podolsky of Connecticut Legal Services and M. Yanus, a member of the Clinton Fair Rent Commission attending this meeting to answer questions the newly formed Fair Rent Commission has.
5. Question and Answer Session
Members of the commission asked questions and both R. Podolsky and M. Yanus responded.
6. Election of Officers
There was discussion of the officers to be elected. N. Gorski suggested a Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary and Receiver. After further discussion, we did not elect anyone as Receiver.

R. Rimmer moved to nominate D. Cutillo as Chair, J. Byrne seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

D. Cutillo moved to nominate R. Rimmer as Vice Chair, L. Bombalecki seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

J. Byrne moved to nominate E. Oppenheimer as Recording Secretary. E. Oppenheimer respectfully declined. The motion failed for lack of a second.

R. Rimmer moved to nominate J. Byrne as Recording Secretary. Motion passed 5-0.
7. Meeting Cadence
All meetings will be special meetings.
8. Next Steps

MINUTES: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION (subject to approval)
Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 6:00 P.M. Remote

N. Gorski to form binders for all members of the commission with information provided by R. Podolsky and M. Yanus. Chair D. Cutillo to decide if the commission will meet again in advance of receiving a complaint. Commission members can attend upcoming informational sessions.

9. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Gorski
February 2, 2023