



Office of the  
**Townsend Housing Authority**  
272 Main St., Townsend, MA. 01469

Chairman: Laura E Shifrin (2021)

General Member: Kevin Smith (2018)

Clerk, Susan Congdon (2019)

State Representative: Chaz Sexton-Diranian (2022)

BetteAnn Coleman Appointed Tenant Seat (2020)

*Approved 11/30/17*

DRAFT of the Minutes  
**TOWNSEND HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
Thursday, November 16, 2017  
VFW, Main St., West Townsend, MA. 01474

I. Preliminaries:

- 1.1 Meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m.
- 1.2 Roll Call: Chaz Sexton-Diranian, Susan Congdon, Laura Shifrin—Absent with notice: BetteAnn Coleman, Kevin Smith. See attached sign in sheet of others in attendance.
- 1.3 This meeting was not recorded
- 1.4 Pledge of Allegiance was recited and thanks given to our Veterans in attendance.
- 1.5 Additions/Deletions to agenda unforeseen: Laura Shifrin Stated that Lionel Romain was unable to attend on this date so II. has been deleted.
- 1.6 It was Moved and Seconded to approve Minutes of Friday, October 27, 2017.  
Unanimously approved
- 1.7 Laura Shifrin announced that BetteAnn Coleman was appointed and sworn in yesterday as the individual to serve on this board as a tenant resident thru 2020.
- 1.8 Chaz Sexton-Diranian read the OML violation of 10/27/2017 issued by Cindy King
- 1.9 Discussion was held. Suggestions were made regarding the answer to this OML violation. Moved, Seconded and unanimously approved to send answer as discussed.

II. Appointments: Lionel Romain, Director of Housing for Central and Western Massachusetts Community Economic Development (CEDAC)—per 1.5 Laura Shifrin disclosed that Lionel could attend on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Laura Shifrin announced that the room at the Senior Center was confirmed for Thursday, November 30, 2017 with the Library and Senior Center Admins. Agenda to be posted ASAP.

III. Work Session:

- 3.1 Public session began with Chaz reporting on statistics that he found regarding Middlesex County Veterans, homelessness, disabilities etc. and were verified by Keith Jackson. Others participating in discussion were Chip Mann, Russell Jobe and John Giardani
- 3.2 Mail was reviewed. 3 copies of letters from the Attorney General's office pertaining to OML violations. Laura Shifrin has registered for webinar training. ALL board members have received

CC: Kathy Spofford, Town Clerk

Mission: "To promote, maintain and provide housing opportunities for income groups who could not otherwise afford to live here."



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copies of the OML, have read them and agreed to adhere to them. No other board member agreed to take the webinar or appear in person to be trained without compensation of lost wages and time served.

3.3 Next Meeting Date: November 30, 2017 7:00 p.m. Senior Center Library community room. 12 Dudley Rd., Townsend, MA.

3.4 Adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

CC: Kathy Spofford, Town Clerk

Mission: "To promote, maintain and provide housing opportunities for income groups who could not otherwise afford to live here."



Laura Shifrin &lt;laurie8884@gmail.com&gt;

**corrected OML Complaint**

3 messages

**Cindy King** <ckingmsw@gmail.com>

To: hanne.rush@state.ma.us, "Laura Shifrin, TownsendCenterRealty.com" &lt;laurie8884@gmail.com&gt;, Kathy Spofford &lt;kspofford@townsend.ma.us&gt; Wed, Nov 22, 2017 at 6:47 AM

First I want to apologize for any confusion I might have caused.

I just realized that the version of the OML Complaint of 10/27/17 had uncorrected dates in it. Because it could cause confusion, I have retyped another page 2. The ONLY changes that I have made are to the dates that were in error. In a couple of spots I put a September date when it should have been October.

We are still within the 30 day window of when a complaint can be filed so I believe that redoing it is still in compliance.

I am including the AGO in this email because you have already submitted your response to me and them.

I have enclosed both the complete original complaint and a new page 2. Please combine them.

I believe that the only fair thing to do is to allow you to review the corrected complaint and have another opportunity to redo your response if you choose. I don't know if changing the dates to correct ones will make a difference or not but I believe you should have a chance to review.

You have a meeting scheduled for November 30th. That date should be fine for you to meet and review and either amend your response or send me an email that your original response stands. I will use that email as part of your response in that case.

I believe that the timelines restart today as a new complaint. I hope the AGO concurs. The response times are not late even if the original clock is still ticking. You will have to put this on your agenda for the 30th, send to your members, and NOT communicate about it until the meeting.

--

**Cindy King**

978-503-7456

**2 attachments** **SCAN0068.PDF**  
8425K **New OML Corrected.PDF**  
1284K**Laurie Shifrin** <laurie8884@gmail.com>

To: Chaz Sexton-Diranian &lt;cqsexton@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Select &lt;sml412@comcast.net&gt;

Wed, Nov 22, 2017 at 9:25 AM

Speechless ..

I'll put on next agenda

I've spent to much needless time and energy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:



### Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

Townsend Housing Authority met on 9/18/17.  
On 9/25/17 I submitted an OML complaint to the THA Chair.  
The next scheduled meeting of the THA was 10/23/17. That meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. The meeting was posted. Agenda and attachments are included in this complaint. The attachments included a DRAFT of the meeting minutes of 9/18/17 and a "Focus Group report of 9/14/17..."  
The next scheduled meeting is 10/27/17. Agenda is posted with attachments including a CORRECTED draft of the 9/18/17 minutes, a copy of my original OML complaint of 9/25/17, and an email denying an extension request dated 10/24/17.  
No other meetings for the THA have been posted for this time period.  
The DRAFT of 9/18/17 attached to the agenda for 10/27/17 has significant changes, additions, and deletions from the version attached to the agenda for 10/23/17. The Agenda for 10/27/17 item 1.6 states "...redrafted from input of the board and attached...". Changes made to the DRAFT include changing wording from "report" to "summary" as well as other additions. The Focus Group Report attachment has been deleted from the minutes for 9/18/17 although it WAS presented. The THA admits, in the posting of the 10/27/17 agenda, that it met or discussed outside of a posted meeting the contents of the minutes and proposed changes to the DRAFT.  
The action appears to be a deliberate violation of the OML. The action appears to be a deliberate attempt by the THA to cover-up evidence of the original OML violation based on the changes that were made to the minutes of the 9/18/17 meeting.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

I request that the THA attend to the original OML violation and make corrections to their actions to come into compliance instead of denying that their actions have occurred as evidenced by public records. I further request that the THA comply with the OML by ceasing to discuss matters outside of a posted meeting. I request that ALL members of the THA attend an Open Meeting Law in person training. I request that the unlawful changes to the documents as mentioned above be publicly admitted to and corrected.

### Review, sign, and submit your complaint

#### I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

**Public Record.** Under most circumstances, your complaint, and any documents submitted with your complaint, is considered a public record and will be available to any member of the public upon request.

**Publication to Website.** As part of the Open Data Initiative, the AGO will publish to its website certain information regarding your complaint, including your name and the name of the public body. The AGO will not publish your contact information.

#### II. Consulting With a Private Attorney.

The AGO cannot give you legal advice and is not able to be your private attorney, but represents the public interest. If you have any questions concerning your individual legal rights or responsibilities you should contact a private attorney.

#### III. Submit Your Complaint to the Public Body.

The complaint must be filed first with the public body. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Open Government by calling (617) 963-2540 or by email to [openmeeting@state.ma.us](mailto:openmeeting@state.ma.us).

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the provisions above and certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 11/22/17

For Use By Public Body

Date Received by Public Body:

For Use By AGO

Date Received by AGO: