

BLIGHT PREVENTION BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
Administrative Conference Room – Fire Headquarters  
September 22, 2014 – 6:30 PM  
(FINAL)

**ATTENDANCE:**

Blight Prevention Board

Russ Blair	<u>          X          </u>
Rick Burke	<u>          X          </u>
Jo Ann Davidson	<u>          X          </u>
Jeff Stewart	<u>          X          </u>
Joe Strickland	<u>          X          </u>

Blight Prevention Board Staff

Michele Onofrio	<u>          X          </u>
Steve Smith	<u>          X          </u>

**1 Strathmore lane**

Steve Smith explained to the board that he investigated the property and found it to be potential blight. Steve Smith showed the Board pictures. The house has a blue tarp on the roof. The homeowner Nancy Vorel has not responded to our letter requesting her to attend the meeting. The house is not occupied. Many of the neighbors attended the meeting. The neighbors stated the house has not been occupied for over 5 years. The tarp on the roof of the house has been replaced several times. The driveway is completely overgrown and the front lawn is weeds. The neighbors stated the weeds are four feet tall at times. The property has rats and fleas and is attracting nesting deer. Kathleen Stuart stated that her cat has brought home 2 rats and has been infested with fleas because of the close proximity to 1 Strathmore Lane. Jill Greenberg said the stench of the rotting house is present when you walk by. She believes a tree is growing in the house. Neighbors feel it could be a potential fire hazard too.

After hearing the evidence presented, a motion was made by Rick Burke that 1 Strathmore Lane is a blighted property. Russ Blair seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to declare the property blighted.

Joe Strickland explained to the neighbors how the blight prevention board works. Our next steps would be to re-send a letter and/or serve her.

### **11 Edgemarth Hill Rd.**

Will Birnie has reported that he made progress removing cars from his property. Steve Smith verified 3 cars were removed. Joe Strickland said he wants to be very fair and work with Will Birnie on an appropriate time line. The Board spoke about a possible dumpster where progress could be monitored. Mr. Birnie did not want a dumpster as it would make entering and exiting more difficult.

The Board discussed the tiers of white buckets. Mr. Birnie said that he will work on removing ½ the tiers. Mr. Birnie stated that by our next meeting (October 9<sup>th</sup>), he will have 2 cars removed. Steve Smith suggested Will Birnie drop off the receipts from the auto parts store to verify the cars have been removed.

### **22 Maple Avenue N.**

The Homeowner did not show up at the meeting. The Blight Prevention Board agreed to send a third letter requesting the homeowner attend the meeting. The Board would like to go over the property and discuss next steps.

### **Old Business:**

### **21 Center St.**

The Board was shown pictures of the property and all agreed the property was no longer blighted and the file can be closed.

### **14 Cockenoe Drive**

The Board was shown pictures of the property and all agreed the property was no longer blighted and the file can be closed.

### **57, 63, 79, 69-73 – Post Rd. West**

All properties received demo permits. The Board closed the file.

### **17 Wake Robin**

The property was demolished. The Board closed the file.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Jo Ann Davidson, seconded by Russ Blair, the hearing adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

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Michele Onofrio  
Secretary

**Distribution:**

Larry Bradley, Director, Planning & Zoning  
Barbara Butler, Director, Department of Human Services  
Dale Call, Chief of Police  
Mark Cooper, Director, Health District  
Andrew Kingsbury, Fire Chief  
Carol Leahy, Staff, Historic District Commission  
James S. Marpe, First Selectman

### **In Attendance**

Jay Targular – 28 Strathmore Lane  
Myra Hess – 54 Strathmore Lane  
Edward McManus – 22 Strathmore Lane  
Kathy & Robert Stuart – 3 Strathmore Lane  
Susan Hotz – Bermuda Rd.  
Jeffrey Carliss – Bermuda Rd.  
Peter Knight - RTM