

BLIGHT PREVENTION BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
Administrative Conference Room – Fire Headquarters  
January 8, 2015 – 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>

December Minutes were revised and approved.

**11 Edgemarth Hill Rd. – William Birnie**

Mr. Birnie has removed a total of 8 cars. The Board continues to be pleased with Mr. Birnie's progress. The Board anticipates he will continue to remove additional unregistered or inoperable vehicles.

**22 Maple Avenue N. – Narcisco Callirgos**

The homeowner, Mr. Callirgos did not attend the meeting. Neighbors, David and Nancy Bloom addressed the Board. They stated nothing has been done to the property in the past 13 years. The yard still has wood in the front and back. Last month at the Blight Prevention Board hearing on December 11, 2104, the Board came up with a plan for Mr. Callirgos and it was mutually agreed upon that as of January 8, 2015, a list of action items would be completed. Steve Smith inspected the property prior to our meeting and nothing on the list was completed. After discussing the property, the following **motion was made by Jo Ann Davidson, seconded by Rick Burke and the Board unanimously agreed the property was blighted. The Board prepared a list of action steps for Mr. Callirgos. Among the steps, Mr. Callirgos must remove the freezer in the yard. He must submit proof of which vehicles on his property are registered. The deadline will be February 11, 2015. This is a request and not a formal motion.**

### **1 Strathmore Lane – Nancy Vorel**

Steve Smith reported the tarp is still on the roof and no repairs have been made. Steve Smith told the Board he received a phone call from the loan officer from the bank that holds the mortgage on the property asking for an extension of time to complete the required remediation. Steve Smith granted a 30 day extension, which ends on January 15 2015. Shortly after receiving the extension the loan officer said the roof and underlying structure were severely rotted and the roof could not be repaired. Steve Smith recommended the Board make a motion to fine the property if it is not repaired by January 15' 2015. The Board discussed what options were available to them should the bank request an extension. Any request for a time extension would have to be approved by the Board. Rick Burke stated if we fine the property owner, the bank may pay closer attention to this situation. Gail Kelly, Assistant Town Attorney, explained the legal citation process to the Board. After discussing the property, **a motion was made by Rick Burke, seconded by Jeff Stewart and the Board unanimously agreed to send a notice of violation and to commence the citation process. The citation will be issued effective as of January 16, 2015.**

### **156 Compo Road North – Peter Strople**

The homeowner did not attend the meeting. He was served by a Marshal. This was the second attempt to contact the owner. Michele Onofrio spoke to the Marshal's office and was told that the home owner received the letter. The Board discussed the cars on his property and the possibility of getting P & Z involved. The Board wanted to know if the Zoning Officer enforces or fines unregistered cars. A motion to declare the property blighted was made and passed last month. The Board has requested that the homeowner attend our meeting on Feb. 12' 2015 and show current registrations for all vehicles on his property. Any unregistered vehicles in excess of the town approved limit must be removed on or before Feb. 11, 2015. Proof of removal is required.

### **4 Hale St. – Antoine Giaume**

The homeowner addressed the Board. He acknowledged his boat was unregistered and went into detail how much work is involved with the removal of a large boat that has not been used in over 10 years. He has started cutting up pieces of the boat; however, due to the size not much has been accomplished. Other neighbors addressed the Board about large quantities of "stuff" that is filling up his backyard. Permission was granted by the homeowner for Steve Smith to go onto the property and inspect the material in his backyard. The Board will determine a remediation plan once they are able to see the pictures of the yard and its contents in it.

## **227 Hillspoint – Dorothy Berman**

Steve Smith gave a report and showed pictures of the property at this location. The home owner lives with her daughter in another house in Westport. The house has been unoccupied for years and the homeowner has no plans to move back in. All the neighbors that attended spoke in detail about the conditions of the property. The neighbors spoke of their frustration of having to look at the deteriorated house with broken windows and unsightly property. Joe Strickland read a statement from Chief Kingsbury. Jeff Stewart addressed the homeowner about her intentions and the removal of the debris and other material on the property. The homeowner agreed that she would remove all the debris. After a discussion, a **motion was made by Jo Ann Davidson, seconded by Russ Blair and the Board unanimously agreed the property was blighted. The first step will be to clean up the exterior debris by February 11, 2015. The homeowner will attend the meeting next month at which time the Board will determine the next steps required for remediating the blight.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Joe Strickland, seconded by Russ Blair, the hearing adjourned at 9:00 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**

Neighbors were in attendance