

BLIGHT PREVENTION BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
October 12, 2023
Note: This meeting was held remotely by Zoom
(DRAFT)

ATTENDANCE:

Blight Prevention Board

Russ Blair	<u> X </u>
Rick Burke	<u> </u>
Jeff Stewart	<u> X </u>
Joe Strickland	<u> X </u>
Lynn Goldberg	<u> X </u>

Blight Prevention Board Staff

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

September Minutes were approved.

Old Business

11 Edgemarth Hill Rd. – Venti LLC RECEIVED (3) N.O.V. – 11-20-15, 2-18-2016 & 11-30-16

The new owner, Scott Maronna, did not attend the meeting. The Board agreed to re-visit this property next month.

233 Hillspoint – Gilbert Cohen

Steve Smith updated the Board that he has spoken with a potential buyer of the property. Michele Onofrio reported that the Blight fine continues to accumulate.

164 Newtown Turnpike

Michele Onofrio reported to the Board and others in attendance she spoke with the homeowner and sent him an email. The homeowner was amenable to re-organizing the backyard and wants to be courteous to his neighbors. The Board agreed to keep this property on the agenda.

8 Palmieri Road

Michele Onofrio reported to the Board and others in attendance that Planning and Zoning has become involved in this case. They gave the property owner a deadline of October 15th to remove the two storage containers from the front and rear yards. The Board agreed to keep this property on the agenda.

22 Maple Avenue North

Michele Onofrio reported to the Board that the homeowner has removed one of the 3 inoperable cars from the property and is in the process of removing the other two. A dumpster was provided for the homeowner, and he has started filling it up. Steve Smith reported that upon the homeowner's request he gave the homeowner an additional 30 days to remove the inoperable vehicles. Steve Smith briefly spoke to the Board about providing additional assistance for this resident.

2 Palmieri Road

The homeowner did not attend the meeting. A neighbor in attendance explained to the Board that a boat and car parked on trailers in the property's rear and side yards are visible from her yard. After being asked if the vehicles had moved recently the neighbor replied that they have not moved in the 4 years she has lived next door. The neighbor forwarded photos of the rear yard which were shared with the Board. The neighbor invited the Board to her property at any time to view his yard. Steve Smith will inspect the property from her backyard. Joe Strickland asked Michele Onofrio to invite the homeowner to attend our November meeting. The Board will keep this property on its agenda.

5 Hiawatha Ln

Steve Smith reported the property is cleaned up. Joe Strickland motioned to remove the property from the agenda, Lynn Goldberg seconded, and the Board unanimously agreed. The property is removed from our agenda.

New Business

Joe Strickland was contacted by the Assistant Town Attorney, Eileen Flug to consider adding other areas of concern to the Blight Ordinance. He asked the Board to create a list of possible new categories that we might consider adding to the Blight Ordinance. That list will be submitted to the Assistant Town Attorney for review. The Board was asked to vote to accept Connecticut General Statute 7-148 allowing an increase in fines for Blight violations to a maximum of \$150/day for occupied properties, \$250/day for vacant properties, and \$1,000/day for properties with three or more violations in the same calendar year. Upon motion by Lynn Goldberg and seconded by Jeff Stewart, the Board accepted adoption of the statute unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The hearing adjourned at 7:52 P.M. Our next meeting will be November 9, 2023.

Michele Onofrio, Secretary

Distribution:

Mary Young, Director, Planning & Zoning
Elaine Daignault, Department of Human Services
Foti Koskinas, Chief of Police
Mark Cooper, Director, Health District
Mark Amatrudo, Interim Fire Chief
Donna Douglass, Historic District Commission
Jennifer Tooker, First Selectwoman