

BLIGHT PREVENTION BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

April 11, 2024

Note: This meeting was held remotely by Zoom
(DRAFT)

ATTENDANCE:

Blight Prevention Board

Russ Blair	<u> X </u>
Rick Burke	<u> X </u>
Jeff Stewart	<u> X </u>
Joe Strickland	<u> X </u>
Alex Geer	<u> X </u>

Blight Prevention Board Staff

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

February and March Minutes – Approved by the Blight Board.

Old Business

233 Hillspoint Rd

Steve Smith told the Board the builder is making small changes, Planning and Zoning is on board. Rick Burke said when he drives by the property, he continues to see active construction work going on. Rick Burke motioned to take the property off our agenda, Alex Geer seconded, and the Board unanimously agreed.

New Business

Discussion on amending the Blight Ordinance

Our town attorney, Eileen Flug, attended the meeting to discuss modifying the ordinance. Eileen and the Board went over the following categories:

- Adding peeling paint, dangerous trees, extremely high grass, and excessive yard waste to the definition of blight.
- Limiting who can file a complaint to Westport residents, owners, or tenants, as well as Town employees and officials.
- Updating the fines to comply with the state law changes.

- Making clear that there cannot be both a civil citation and a criminal (“willful”) citation for the same violation. The law does not allow this, and the new language will make that clear.
- Requiring that all notices to owner/occupants also be sent to mortgage holders (“lien holders”), as required by state law.

Eileen Flug will work on the changes and attend our May 9, 2024, meeting. If the Board is in agreement, they can vote on the changes, and they will be added to our ordinance. The last step will be approval from the RTM.

ADJOURNMENT

The hearing adjourned at 8:29 P.M. Our next meeting will be May 9, 2024.

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