

BLIGHT COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday February 20, 2018 6:00pm

A Blight Commission Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2018 in the selectmen's conference room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Evan Brunetti, Selectman Rick Fowler (absent with previous notice), Blight Officer Tom Mitchell, Betsy Bosco, Bob Barry

Call to Order

Mr. Criss called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Discuss current Reports on existing complaints - Follow up on 5 existing Blighted properties.

- **56 Brookfield Road**: The final certified letter that was sent on October 30th 2017 was never picked up by the homeowner. The tarps that were replaced are no longer there. Nothing on his property has changed. Blight Officer Tom Mitchell stated that Mr. Skibisky has not corresponded at all. Nothing has been done to this property to make it compliant to the Blight ordinance. He has not asked for an extension or communicated plans to clean up the blighted areas. At this point we will have to have him served from the Sheriff's department. We will have to start serving him fines, which is the next step in the Blight ordinance. Ms. Bosco made a motion to turn this property over to the town attorney to advise us on how to start the fining process. Mr. Barry seconded. All were in favor. Motion carries.

- **8 Ridgewood Drive**: This is where the fire had happened. The daughter in law called Mr. Criss directly; however she was not available to speak when he called her back. Ms. Bosco made a motion to turn this property over to the town attorney to advise us on how to start the fining process. Mr. Barry seconded. All were in favor. Motion carries.

- **251 Wildcat Hill Road**: A letter was received today from Rick's Auto Parts on Mr. Petrovits behalf (presented at the last Blight meeting November 21, 2017):
"Rick's Auto Parts has agreed to clear the vehicles from Ernie Petrovits' Wildcat Hill property in Harwinton, CT. This is an unpaid favor to Mr. Petrovits, and as such, we shall ensure their removal at our leisure by February 1, 2018. Further inquiry can be made during our normal business hours: Monday through Friday, 8am – 5pm. Thank you."
As of today's date there are still 3 unregistered vehicles on the property. Rick's Auto Parts stated in their letter that they would have all the vehicles off the property by February 1st, 2018. Mrs. Mitchell spoke with Rick's Auto Parts today; they are aware of the situation but are unable to remove the remaining unregistered vehicles due to the weather conditions. Currently the ground is too

soft for their loader to get to the remaining vehicles. The employee stated that Mr. Mitchell spoke with will inform the owner, Nicholas, that he called and requested a returned phone call. As of today there has been no communication. Mr. Mitchell called Mr. Petrovits as well. Mr. Petrovits stated that he had the storage container removed from the property (which he did) and that he was going to request a burning permit to burn the wooden furniture. He was going to get in touch with Rick's Auto Parts today. There has been consistent effort to make to property blight compliant. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to continue to track the progress on this property. Ms. Bosco seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

- **18 Cemetery Road**: This property has been discussed since 2011. Mr. Criss has a couple of concerns. The property is not being properly maintained as evidenced by the following: rodent harborage and/or infestation; Persistent debris, rubbish, garage or accumulating refuse on the property; Or two or more abandoned or unregistered vehicles. There has been no response to Mr. Mitchell's communications. They did accept the letter. The property owner's son & girlfriend are currently living there. Several voice messages were left to reiterate that the property needs to be addressed. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to issue a formal, final warning notice outlining the Town's position on the property with a firm date of when we are going to proceed with the next step in the Blight Ordinance (section 6.a-e.) and having a letter drafted and ready presuming there is no response, and to have Mike Rybak review it. Mr. Criss seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
- **6 Timber Lane**: Discussion ensued about whether or not this property is actually considered Blight. The property may look cluttered but it is not considered Blight. The complaint said that there is garbage on the property. The gentleman living there is elderly and may have some disabilities. The realtor submitted the complaint. Mr. Mitchell is going to follow up and see what the property status will be. This property is going to be put on hold before any motion is made.
- **30 Breezy Hill Road**: This property is being put on hold until the warmer weather. This resident is also in a difficult situation. He is allowed one unregistered vehicle which is the boat. He does park the lawn mowers in the front of the house but they are still working. The Torrington Area Health District is still looking into this property. The TAHD is also waiting for the warmer weather to be able to assess this property. The family has fallen on hard times. They have a case for financial destitute status. He may be able to get help cleaning up the property as there will be another collection in May. Mr. Criss also suggested helping to take down the above ground pool (once pool is down can also take the fence down) and removing the dead trees. Mr. Criss asked Mr. Mitchell to drive by and take updated pictures.

Executive Session – Nothing as this time.

Adjournment – Mr. Criss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm. Mr. Brunetti Seconded. All were in Favor. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by _____
Jen Minery