

Blight Prevention Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 10:00am

Via Zoom, in accordance with Executive Order 7B

Town Hall, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Meeting Minutes Unapproved

Please note these minutes are not verbatim

Zoom Meeting Code:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TH1-HvNHSNmBvJ0bMaq9-w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TH1-HvNHSNmBvJ0bMaq9-w)

Attendees: First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Building Official Jason Celestino, Zoning Enforcement Officer Richard Baldelli, Health Director Ed Briggs, and Recording Secretary Gillian Sheerin

Absent: Fire Marshal Guy Mignilas

Guests: Patrick Biehl, Chris Murray and Richard Ball

Meeting called to order at 10:02am

**1. 120 Ivy Hill Rd**

Mr. Marconi asked if anyone from the Board would like to comment. Mr. Baldelli said he is familiar with the property and that it doesn't look like anyone is living in it. He added there is debris in the front and back yard, the house is in poor condition and has deteriorated over the years and that even with 6 inches snow he would classify it as blighted.

Mr. Marconi commented the poor condition of the property can be observed from walking on the Rail Trail and asked what course of action the Board would like to take.

Mr. Celestino commented that he hasn't seen much of the property but did notice a bunch of debris.

Mr. Baldelli motioned to classify the property as blighted and start the process. Mr. Briggs second the motion.

Mr. Marconi asked if any of the public attendees would like to comment before the Board votes. Chris Murray said that he and his wife have been living here for 25 years and have never seen the property cleaned up. He added that he believes the owner is Edward Jamroga. Mr. Murray said a few years ago the owner's granddaughter, Kelly, attempted to clean up the property but the effort petered out. Mr. Murray also said that the owner's stepdaughter, Wanda, mentioned selling the property about 6-8 months ago. He said that after Eversource cleared the trees, the property is now exposed and it is hard to avoid the appearance.

Richard Ball commented that they have been seeing the property this way for 21 years. He added there is lawn equipment and a snow plow blade on the side of the rail trail. Mr. Ball said this doesn't do any good for their property value and asked what powers the Board has and if they can initiate clean up.

Mr. Marconi responded that the Board will move forward with the process and went on to explain what the process involves.

Mr. Murray commented that there is a tank of some type adjacent to the trail and might possibly even be on the Rail Trail property. Mr. Murray said he is not sure what kind of tank it is but he is concerned about it. He added that he asked Kelly, the granddaughter, about it and she said they did not put it there.

Mr. Marconi thanked everyone for their comments. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of Mr. Baldelli's motion.

2. **44 Highview Drive**

Mr. Marconi commented that progress is being made and asked if Mr. Biehl would like to give an update.

Mr. Biehl said that the snow has slowed him down a bit, but he has made some good progress and that the porch will be ready by the 28<sup>th</sup> for inspection. He added that he has finished with the footings and lower beam and is about to put the post up.

Mr. Celestino said that he is waiting for him to call for inspection.

Mr. Biehl said worst case scenario, it will be ready on the 28<sup>th</sup>, but maybe sooner. He added that he moved the tractor to the back and has been parking his truck in the driveway as asked.

Mr. Marconi responded that if Mr. Biehl keeps the front clean and the progress moving we will all be fine.

3. **29 Lakeview Drive**

Mr. Marconi said there are no updates. He added that the press inquired about the property and that he told them it is in litigation and beyond that could not comment. Mr. Marconi said that he will call Alex Copp to find out an update. Mr. Baldelli said it would be good to get a written update from Alex Copp to add to the file.

4. **Approval of January 26, 2021 minutes.**

Mr. Baldelli motion to approved minutes as written. Mr. Celestino second the motion. The Board approved 4-0.

Mr. Baldelli motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Briggs second the motion. The Board approved 4-0.