

ENFIELD BLIGHT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting

Scitico Room – Enfield Town Hall

Thursday October 27, 2022

5:30 PM

A meeting of the Enfield Blight Review Committee was held in the Scitico Room at the Enfield Town Hall on Thursday October 27, 2022 at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ken Nelson Jr – Town Council Liaison, Nick Hopkins – Town Council Liaison, Karen Prauge, James Byrne, Jessica Martin

Also Present:

Steve Bielenda, Staff Liaison and Assistant Town Manager

Kristy Koistinen, Community Development Specialist

John Santanella, Town Council Member

NEW BUSINESS

Kristy Koistinen reviewed history and property maintenance fines for 17 Burnham Street. Ken Nelson stated he drove by the property Wednesday and he met a neighbor who was cutting the lawn at 17 Burnham Street who he invited to the meeting. He stated the grass has not been maintained by the current owner. Members stated it was unfair to the neighbors that have had to live near or next to the blighted property for over 8 years and the neighbors are the ones maintaining the grass.

The committee discussed the difference between a short sale of the property versus the Town foreclosing on the property for the property maintenance fines that total \$339,222.00. They discussed that the bank that handles the mortgage should have been notified of each violation so they would have the ability to contact the owner to take action.

A motion was made by Ken Nelson, seconded by Karen Prauge to recommend to Town Council to begin the foreclosure process for the \$339,220.00 in unpaid property maintenance fines. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with James Byrne abstaining. An amendment to the motion was made by Karen Prauge to also deny the request to waive any property maintenance fines. The amendment to the motion was approved 4-0-1 with James Byrne abstaining.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The committee discussed if there should be a maximum accrual amount for property maintenance fines. They discussed that there should be an amount, possibly \$40,000, that when fines reach, the owner should have to address the Blight Review Committee in person. The committee discussed that they could then decide if they would foreclose on the property for the unpaid property maintenance fines and/or if there is a way to remedy the property maintenance violations.

The committee questioned the number/average of outstanding property maintenance fines and requested a list of properties with the highest fines. Kristy Koistinen stated she would put together a list and share with the committee. The committee agreed that further discussion of the property maintenance process and the Blight Review Committee's involvement with blighted properties will take place at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Koistinen
Office of Community Development