



# TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

*Office of the Township Manager*

## MEETING NOTES

March 1, 2018 4 p.m.

TO: Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager and Maria Wyrsta

DATE: MARCH 1, 2018

SUBJECT: VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD MEETING

REFERENCE: MEETING NOTES OF VPRB MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2018

ATTENDEES: CHAIRMAN BOB GREAVES, COMMISSIONER JOHN SPIEGELMAN, TOBY TRUE, LORENA TRUJILLO, CATHY GAUTHIER, SHAWN LITTLEFIELD, MARIA WYRSTA

PUBLIC ATTENDEE: LORA LEHMANN, 1431 BRYANT LANE

SUMMARY: DISCUSSION AS FOLLOWS

### General Discussion:

Minutes of February were approved. Main topic of discussion was that after work has been done on vacant properties and they are ready for sale, lease or rent would there be opportunities to partner with other organizations to actually get the property redeveloped.

There was a meeting with members of the EDC who were interested in looking at these properties and work together with the VPRB. The VPRB would provide the EDC with a subset of these properties to work on and then the EDC would form a subcommittee to reach out to property owners to assist in getting these commercial properties up and running again.

Next step would be to add demographic information including square footage of the parcels and square footage of the buildings to the updated list of vacant properties, so that when the pilot program begins, the EDC subcommittee can reach out and network with potential small business owners.

County program - ESRI: GIS Mapping Software/Community Analysis is a program where you can insert a 30-minute drive around in an area and it shows demographic statistics and provides a listing of businesses as well as a chart of the types of businesses in that particular area.

Regarding the list of vacant properties; the VPRB will decide on the most blighted properties and consider them a priority making sure they are in compliance with code and, if not, certify them as blighted. Also, the VPRB will decide on the top five vacant properties to provide to the EDC to be used for the pilot program and those top five should also include potential small restaurants.

Goals for this year were to obtain input from Township Solicitor on Act 135 as well as the VPRB will review adopted ordinances for any potential revisions.

Vacant properties are prioritized by size; community interest and impact on Township, and the list of vacant properties were prioritized and a list of the vacant properties that will be provided to the EDC was discussed. Also, it was suggested that a letter be sent to the Board of Commissioners requesting that they inform the VPRB about any vacant properties in their wards.

Action Items and Responsibility:

Provide the EDC with a list of the top five vacant properties for their subcommittee to work with the VPRB. Send a letter to the Board of Commissioners requesting they inform the VPRB about any vacant properties in their wards.