

# **VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** February 1, 2018 at 4:10 p.m.

**Re:** Monthly Meeting

**Attendance:** Bob Greaves, Commissioners John Spiegelman, Cathy Gauthier, Shaun Littlefield, Maria Wyrsta

**Residents:** Michele Duncan and Marsha Ellis in Attendance

### **General Discussion:**

Welcome - Bob Greaves

Followed January's Agenda for February

Committee Members introduced themselves and their organization.

December 7<sup>th</sup> VPRB meeting was a presentation for Act 135 - Copy of the presentation was approved for December's final minutes.

As a follow-up to that meeting, Commissioner Spiegelman, Bob Greaves and Doug Callantine who is the Chair of Economic Development Committee met in December on this (Act 135) to see for any opportunities and collaboration with EDC in identifying these properties and meeting the requirements, as well as have a list and to get together with Doug Callantine one more time and have an opportunity for the Township to help out or have interest in the Economic Development Committee in mapping the most recent list to work out if there are any interest.

Commissioner John Spiegelman explained the new change for interviews being done for all Committees. Each Board falls under a different Committee. Our new Commissioner, Matt Vahey, is the liaison of the Economic Development Committee and Public Affairs Committee is under Commissioner John Spiegelman and Commissioner Ben Sanchez interviews under Code Enforcement and Land Use.

Shaun Littlefield gave an update on review of waiver request. Property owner at 1554 Easton Road to renovate the top floor and convert into apartments or possibly to sell it. Letter was sent followed by a phone call. It's been nine months and the common sense approach is to deny it just to move it and to give him some incentive.

Commissioner John Spiegelman in the future to have a mechanism to obscure buildings from a view to connect vacant properties with businesses.

All agreed to have a provisional waiver for one month and then to reconsider at March's meeting at property 1554 Easton Road.

Shaun Littlefield updated property from the Vacancy List at 968 Old York Road for a waiver request. Shaun talked to him about the Ordinance and he did pay \$500 fee and the next one is due in March.

Bob Greaves suggested to have a process and overall direction in the beginning of the year and then to come back for additional sites.

Bob Greaves mentioned regarding the Presentation of Act 135 from a process stand point good alternatives we can use properties raised a broader. Thinking what potentially we can do, act or partner with Economic Development Committee or other things talked or thought about.

Bob Greaves suggested for meetings to be more productive and efficient. Instead of spending time going through the list send out ahead of meeting an updated list; for members to look over the spreadsheet list and to get back to him or Shaun and Maria.

In addition, Cathy Gauthier mentioned for members to notice possible any new vacant properties to let them know as well.

Although K-Mart still shows it is owned by Sears Holding Company as the lease holder, it is owned by a private company.

Aldi's on Florey Lane and Easton Road is closing at the end of February. Family Dollar still remains.

Commissioner Spiegelman hopes for some type of grocery store for people to have accessibility for those that do not drive.

Bob Greaves asked to get together with Shaun to generate a high/low list for March's meeting.

Commissioner Spiegelman read into minutes – Member Toby True met with Brad Koplun, Mt. Airy USA (Act 135) possibly to be able to act as a petitioner.

Commissioner Spiegelman had a meeting with Manager Manfredi, Doug Callantine and Commissioner Sanchez regarding setting up an Economic Development Corporation. Representing staff, apply for grants and to raise money for projects.

Questions or concerns as to how to go about to open a business to please contact the Code Department for any permits.

Other discussions were on the remainder of the list. Dumplings is only opened on weekends. Owner was in the office and spoke with Van Strother. Patane Property was withdrawn from a sale, it's back up on the market; where does the Board want to go and High Top Development needs to scale things down, it's back to the drawing board.

Presentation will be on the Code Enforcement Agenda for Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Adjournment - 5:07 PM

**Next Monthly Meeting: April 5, 2018**