

Abington Township Vacancy Property Review Board

Thursday, January 5, 2017
Commencing at 4:07 PM
Township Building Board Room

A. Start of Meeting:

In Attendance: John Spiegelman, Bob Greaves, Lorena Trujillo, Larry Matteo, Shaun Littlefield, Cathy Gauthier, Lora Lehmann

Excused: Mike Narcowich, Toby True

- B.** Minutes of the November 3, 2016 meeting were approved.
- C.** John Spiegelman mentioned that a chairperson for 2017 should be appointed. John stated he is happy to continue acting as chair. No action was taken at this meeting; however, he wanted the board to be aware for the next meeting so that a vote could be taken.
- D.** Call on Shaun Littlefield to give an update on current vacant properties. 1813 Easton Rd has an agreement of sale in place and is expected to be sold soon. Multiple questions were raised regarding the status of 397 Stewart Ave., home of the former Switchville Tavern. Code Enforcement staff was led to believe from the property owner that the site was to be sold soon, however it is not clear as to when. Due to the ongoing uncertainty, it was recommended by the VPRB that there is a step up in enforcement of registration fees.
- E.** John inquired about the status of 1170-1180 Easton Rd. Larry Matteo & Shaun stated they have been in contact with the listing agent, who states that an agreement of sale is nearly in place.
- F.** Larry announced that the vacant property at 1704 Rockwell Rd. will be sold. The property is over an acre in size and has an existing warehouse.
- G.** John mentioned that the Medical Marijuana Ordinance is up for discussion, which could impact existing vacant buildings within the Township.
- H.** John stated that the Retail Subcommittee is looking to do a daytime walk in the upcoming weeks. Due to scheduling conflicts and the holidays, the committee did not meet in December.
- I.** John asked if residential properties should be added to the scope of the VPRB. Larry stated that we should look into adding blighted vacant properties as there is a burden on Code Enforcement to maintain such properties. John was going to follow up with the Solicitor's office.
- J.** Cathy Gauthier suggested using the Montgomery County Housing and Community Development department for any residential properties that need significant work. Cathy mentioned there is a program in Bucks County that allows for funding to fix code violations to low/moderation income homes.

The next meeting will be held on February 2nd, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.