

MINUTES
Ordinance Committee
Tuesday, August 4, 2009 @ 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members present: First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski, John Putorti, and Paul Roy.
Others present: Blight Enforcement Officers Howard Simpson and Alex Danka, Al Yagovane, Fredrick Dlugokenski, Stephen Marciniak, Jason Lubinsk, Sean Walsh, Michelle Walsh, Jeff Simmons, Sue Simmons, Frank Connors, Vincent Pompa, Anthony Sanzo, Brian Amalt, Joe Delmeky, John Boanno, Valerie Pollack, Edward Pollack, J. May, Nick Ivanoff, and Eric Omlor.

ITEM # 1 - Open Meeting.

Meeting was opened by the First Selectman at 7:08PM.

ITEM # 2 - Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the Flag and stated the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM # 3 - Public Comment.

Sean Walsh, 126 Pearl Street: Speaks about his experience with the Blight Ordinance and the effects that it had on him. Also talks about other ways this can be enforced and his opinion that there should not be a Blight Ordinance. He states that different people see blight differently and also suggests that in this economy the Town should consider helping people with their blight problems or having community service or eagle scouts do work.

Tony Sanzo, 63 Pearl Street: Very upset about the Blight Ordinance because he was sighted for having 3 unregistered cars, two of which were antiques and one was his grandson's vehicle who is serving in the armed forces. Also, does not agree with the law.

Dana Bristol, 123 Pearl Street: Also agrees with getting rid of the blight ordinance or at least changing it and states some people cannot afford renovations to their homes.

Frank Connors, 26 Union Street: Feels that the blight law and the Blight Officers show no respect for the residents and they trespass on property. It should be what can be seen from the road not behind the house.

Sue Simmons, 11 Walter Road: Is against anonymous complaints due to her family being harassed by an anonymous complainer, which has caused them many problems.

ITEM # 4 - Discussion and recommendations for amendments to the Anti-Blight Ordinance.

The First Selectman explains the Town's process on amending Ordinances. He also states that this is the Town's first attempt at this Ordinance and it is not working the way it was intended. It was intended to help clean up the Town, but it has turned into a neighbor against neighbor tool, which he would like see changed. He gave Mr. Putorti and Mr. Roy a copy of some of the proposed changes that he had added to the Ordinance from information he received from Sean Walsh of 126 Pearl Street.

Alex Danka, Blight Enforcement Officer: He defends his position that he shares with Howard Simpson. He states that they are just doing their jobs. He also states that they also try to work with people on their violations of the Ordinance. He has personally loaned residents his lawnmower to help them out. He also points out that the Town has received next to nothing in fines and only wants to clean up the neighborhoods. He also believes that complaints should

not be anonymous that come through the office, but names should not be given out to the alleged violator unless legally obligated.

Paul Roy, Ordinance Committee: Would like to see more procedures and detailed descriptions of the specific duties of the Blight Enforcement Officers. He would like their job duties spelled out of what they can and cant do.

Robert J. Koskelowski, First Selectman: As of now he is ordering that the First Selectman's Office no longer take anonymous complaints until the Ordinance is amended. He would also like to take the advise of Mr. Sean Walsh and possibly form a committee, like the Pride Committee to help residents with the care of their lawns, etc.

Residents make several suggestions on the conduct of the Blight Officers and they feel that they are too aggressive. One resident suggests that the Blight Officers issue a warning in the form of a phone call or verbal to the nature of the violation so that the residents can take care of the issue before they receive a violation.

The First Selectman states that is a good idea and he would like the Blight Enforcement Officers to make contact with the alleged violator by phone or verbal warning and be given a reasonable amount of time for correction before a summons is issued. He also states that he will personally go out and check any violations that come into the First Selectman's Office.

ITEM # 5 - Submit proposed amendments to the Board of Selectmen at the August 11, 2009 meeting.

At this time the committee feels that they need to work on the Ordinance amendments further and will have another Ordinance Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 @ 6:30PM to discuss this further amongst them selves. There will not be public comment at that meeting, but residents are welcome to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting later that evening at 7:30PM to make any public comment.

ITEM # 6 - Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:27PM.

Motion: John Putorti

Vote: 3-Yes

0-No

Second: Paul Roy

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

Submitted by,



Deirdre Caruso,
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



Robert J. Koskelowski,
First Selectman