

MINUTES
BLIGHTED PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

The meeting of the Blighted Property Review Committee was called to order by Chairman Dan Weand at 3:40 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Pottstown Borough Hall, 100 E. High Street, Pottstown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Chairman Dan Weand, Members Cheryl Chiarello and Jerry Nugent were present. Also present were Chuck Garner, Borough Solicitor, Charlie Weller, Code Enforcement Officer, Judy Memberg and Maria Bleile. There were no members of the public present for the meeting.

Cheryl Chiarello made a motion, seconded by Jerry Nugent, to approve the Minutes of the July 28, 2011, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Weand questioned the status of the properties that had been viewed on the three bus tours held earlier in the year. A total of 18 properties had been viewed and resolved to be blighted. Charlie Weller reported that due to manpower and staffing issues, he was unable to prepare any of the letters outlining the code violations.

The Committee then discussed the status of the prior properties that had been under review by the Committee prior to the bus tours over the Summer months.

The Committee noted that 327 and 329 Grant Street had been deferred from action for a long period of time. The deferral of action had been at the recommendation of the Assistant District Attorney. After some discussion, Jerry Nugent made a motion, seconded by Cheryl Chiarello, to authorize the Code Officer to send notice of violation letters with respect to the condition of these two properties.

Charlie Weller reported that 865 Queen Street, 428 South Street, 201 North Keim Street, and 112 North Evans Street have been ungraded and been brought up to Code standards by the property owners and that they are no longer considered to be blighted. The Committee noted these properties should be removed from the property status list and were pleased to see this progress.

Charlie Weller reported that there was no change in status to renovations or enforcement actions regarding 266 Beech Street (had not received report of structural engineer), and that the violation notice letters had not yet been prepared or forwarded to the owners of 646 Lincoln Avenue or 67 North Warren Street.

Charlie Weller indicated that he would check on the status of the property at 405 North York Street as the only issue was exterior painting. He further reported that a property transfer application was pending with respect to 22 Chestnut Street, that work was in progress for 235 Henry Street, and

that 853 South Street was going through the foreclosure process. The Committee indicated it would seek further information on these properties at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The Solicitor reported that he had prepared and forwarded a draft Blight Ordinance to the Code Enforcement Office for review and comment. Maria Bleile indicated that the Code Office had reviewed the draft and they seemed satisfied with its content. Chairman Weand suggested that the matter be placed on the next Borough Council Agenda.

Judy Memberg reported that there are a number of properties that had been upgraded by Genesis Housing and were or would soon be available for sale within Pottstown. The properties included 438 Walnut Street, 424 Walnut Street, 610 and 612 Chestnut Street, 174 North Washington Street, and 404 Jefferson Avenue. Judy indicated that Genesis would be actively marketing these properties within the next three to four weeks. The Committee suggested that Judy appear at the next Council Meeting to publicize the availability of these newly renovated single family homes.

There were no other announcements except that the next meeting will be held on October 27, 2011. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.