Chairperson Kevin Brown called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. The meeting was held virtually on a GoTo Meeting platform. All members of the Committee were present along with Charlie Weller from the Department of Licensing and Inspections, Chuck Garner, Borough solicitor, and Judy Memberg of Genesis Housing.

Ryan Procsal made a motion, seconded by Kevin Brown, to approve the March 17, 2021, Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Charlie Weller reported that there still had not been any activity or improvements to 674 Walnut Street. A motion was made by Deb Penrod, seconded by Ryan Procsal, to authorize the Licensing and Inspections Department to send a blighted letter to the property owner. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee then discussed a number of properties that had been resolved to be blighted previously but were unable to serve Violation Notice Letters upon the owner. These properties included 357 Chestnut Street, 418 Cherry Street and 466 High Street. It was noted that the property at 466 High Street is a high priority for service of the blighted Notice Letter. A motion was made by Deb Penrod, seconded by Kevin Brown, to authorize the Department of Licensing and Inspections to utilize constable, Mark Gibson, for serving Blighted Property Notices. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee directed Charlie Weller to review and update status on both 784 Farmington Avenue and 306 N. Evans Street and also send Violation Notice Letters to these property owners.

The Committee then discussed the property at 450 South Street. No progress had been made over the past months and the Violation Notice Letter has not yet been served on the owner. Rebecca Swanson made a motion, seconded by Deb Penrod, to authorize constable service on the property owner. The motion carried unanimously.

Charlie Weller reported that a court hearing date had not yet been scheduled involving 310 N. York Street. However, a warrant had been issued for the owner’s failure to respond to the citations that had been issued.

Chairperson Brown reminded the Committee to inspect the property at 1057 South Street (rear) prior to the next meeting to discuss its status and a possible blight resolution.
Ryan Procsal shared with the Committee photographs of 329 Chestnut Street which was a fire damaged property. Deb Penrod made a motion, seconded by Ryan Procsal, to adopt a Resolution declaring the property blighted and authorized the Licensing and Inspections Department to notify the property owner to cure the blighted conditions within the next 30 days. The motion carried unanimously.

Licensing and Inspections reported that it had walked the Priority Zone recently, which extends on High Street from Keim Street to Manatawny Street. Charlie Weller reported that it is their intent to focus on enforcement on the properties within this Priority Zone. The Committee emphasized its desire to publicize the zone to try to further encourage owners to remediate the blighted conditions on these properties.

NEW BUSINESS

No members of the Committee brought additional properties to discuss or consider for the next meeting.

Judy Memberg indicated that Genesis may be eligible for a Façade Grant Program to improve the exterior appearance of buildings in the targeted area. The Committee was very supportive of the Grant Program and voiced support for Genesis’s efforts.

With no further business and no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.