

COPY RECEIVED
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Town of Seymour
Board of Selectman
MINUTES
Public Hearing
Tuesday, July 16, 2013 @ 6:30PM
Norma Drummer Room / Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Gary Bruce, Annmarie Drugonis, Karen Stanek, and Al Bruno.

Members Absent: Theresa Conroy.

Others Present: Frank Loda, Jamie Brennan, Joe Majoros, Meredith Shook, Joan Daum, Gayle Bannon, Sean Walsh and Frank Connors

Item #1 –Call meeting to order.

First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Item #2 –Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3 –Public Comment.

Jamie Brennan, 124 Bungay Road: He was displeased in the notice given to residents regarding this hearing because it was not posted in Voices or on the Town Website Calendar and the ordinance was not on file at the Town Clerk office. He needed to obtain a copy at the First Selectman's Office and did not easily receive changes. It appears the ordinance is a backdoor grab from people who pay too much as is. The time line has been brought from 90 days to 14 days allowing for notice of violation by phone. Fourteen days to remediate a blight call is not enough time to get the size cleaned up. He was concerned with the grass and brush section of the ordinance and how would this pertain to properties with acreage? Would they have to maintain a lawn on the entire property? It should not be the decision of one person but maybe Planning & Zoning. Please look into the 14 days, it does not seem feasible and may put people further underwater.

Joe Majores, 25 North Street: What constitutes blight? His neighbor is close to being in violations with only cutting his grass once this season. Encourages the town to make the fees stiff.

Meridith Shook, 48 Humphrey Street: There is a bank owned property next door that is not maintained causing health issues in her family with poison ivy and sumac. What repercussions will the bank face? She has filed police reports and complaints with nothing getting done.

Joan Daum, 22 Rennay Road: How much is too much firewood? Her neighbor has been bringing too much wood and she is scared of the bugs and animals it houses.

Gayle Bannon, 25 North Street: Garbage and trash with grass higher than twelve inches is at her neighbors residence. Car parts and skids are on the yard. In February a branch landed on the front lawn and it was just now moved into the backyard. Her house was on the market but people wouldn't even look at it because of her neighbor.

Sean Walsh, 126 Pearl Street: He was very involved in 2007-2009 changes to the Blight Ordinance. He has slight concerns with some of the language changes. The Blight Officer should contact the owner "or" lein holder and not "and". On page 6 there is a carryover miss-print from the previous ordinance stating "2" unregistered cars allowed in a garage. If a car collector has a large garage he/she cannot be limited to "2". Also, the previous ordinance was to be changed from one hearing officer in a dispute to a three person panel. Recreation vehicles are a touchy area; not allowing an RV but allowing a pop-up camper..., where would the line be drawn? It should not be a matter of blight deciding what people can own. Blight is a personal perception. If he put a car chassis in his yard it is blight, but if he places a piece of steel in the ground standing on end it is called art. Public view is another touchy area that needs to be defined. Public view can escalate into the use of Google Earth to wage complaints on properties that have no direct effect on the complainant. The town should use the fees collected to help residents as was discussed when the Blight Ordinance was revised years ago. A plan to help residents is needed and the fines collected should be placed in a pool to be used to help people in need. We need to use Seymour Pride, neighbors need to help neighbors. Blight has a way of dividing neighborhoods. We owe it to people to help.

Frank Connors, 26 Union Street: The last time the ordinance was changed a form was created to have people fill out and sign when making a complaint. It curved the amount of complaints made out of spite. Anonomous complaints will not hold up in court and should not be allowed. The ordinance states blight when gutters are damaged or missing. His house never had gutters—does he now have to purchase gutters or be in violation? It should be his choice to have gutters on his home or not. The time allotted of fourteen days under the revision is too short.

Item #4—Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 7:38pm.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

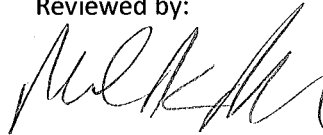
Yes: 6

No: 0

0: Abstain

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:



Michelle Walsh
Recording Secretary

W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman