

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

LAND USE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilor Gamble and Deputy Mayor Hypolite

Also present were: Mayor Schulman, Councilors Rivers, Washington and Merritt, Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, India Rodgers, Clerk of Council and Thom Hooper, Director of Planning

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Discussion regarding the naming of the connector road between Jerome Avenue and Bloomfield Avenue

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Hypolite, seconded by Councilor Gamble and voted unanimously to recommend to Council to name the connector road between Jerome Avenue to “Jerome Way”.

The committee wanted more significance of importance to name something else such as; a new Council chambers after former Councilor Richard “Dik” Days.

Discussion regarding design options for Welcome to Bloomfield signage

Councilor Gamble distributed examples of sign images from other towns for committee review. Councilor Gamble has an appointment with the Dean of Art at the University of Hartford for design options. The committee discuss the possible use of the stonewall blocks on Prospect Street.

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager suggested salvaging the stone and utilizing it for an entrance sign into town.

The committee discussed the parameters in what they would like in a sign. The following items were determined for sign design:

- Welcome to Bloomfield
- Possible use of brownstone – use in Filley Park
- Drummer boy
- University of Hartford student design
- No date should be used for incorporation

Councilors Rivers and Washington suggested that the overall basis for sign designs should be a consistent theme throughout town.

Discussion regarding additions to the Blighted Property List

Councilor Washington inquired about blighted property located at 738 Blue Hills Avenue, the VFW and the house next door condition is still the same with no progress made thus far. Councilor Gamble mentioned the façade fund for revitalization of Blue Hills Avenue.

Mr. Schenck, Jr., spoke with the Public Works department to schedule grass cutting within the week. The property title has been researched and cleared to determine that the VFW does not own it. The town is proceeding with possibility of a tax sale or will begin foreclosure on this site.

This site was on the blighted list a year ago, however it was removed due to title issues.

Deputy Mayor Hypolite inquired about the increase in blight issues in town. These complaints have set the basis for overall town issues involving policies and resources. He also asked about the town's preparation to address these issues referencing:

- Ordinances
- Backlogs/Timeframe
- Policies
- Personnel – Manpower

There is a reality of more complaints and the public perception of the town not doing anything to resolve these issues.

Mr. Thom Hooper, Director of Planning stated that most of these properties have made it to the blighted list over the past two years. When homeowners don't comply with recommendations to remedy this issue, these properties are turned over to the Town Attorney for prosecution. The court process does not look favorably on these complaints. The Housing court only deals with only residential housing issues.

Councilor Rivers stated that there are two separate issues involving residential and commercial properties. Owners that reside in their homes are the difficult cases to manage. The peak of the complaints occurs in late spring and early summer.

Attorney Needelman briefed the Council about recent legislation regarding blighted property, possible pursuit of criminal liabilities. He will also draft a revised notification letter to serve residential owners. Attorney Needelman will work with the Police Chief to coordinate these efforts.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Hypolite, seconded by Councilor Gamble and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.