

COMMISSION ON AGING
Wednesday, October 19, 2016
Town Hall
Room 119, 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Discussion of Minutes from July and September Meetings
3. Mather Center Report
4. Human Services Report
5. Discussion with Anthony Homicki, Town Assessor, and Miagros (Mili) Milan-Garcia, Deputy Assessor, with respect to veterans' tax benefits in the Town of Darien
6. Frank Kemp will discuss a proposed Blight Prevention Ordinance and the Commission on Aging's potential role in connection therewith (see Executive Summary attached hereto)
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, November 16, 2016, Room 119, Town Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Executive Summary – Blight Prevention Ordinance

The Board of Selectmen has requested that the RTM look into this matter, as the Town does not now have an effective means of dealing with this issue. The BOS believes that we need a blight ordinance to better facilitate the more timely remediation of properties that negatively affect neighborhood quality of living and property values.

There are several long-running, "chronic," cases of blighted properties in the Town, with periodic complaints lodged with the Town administration concerning new instances of blighted properties.

Currently, when there is a complaint about a property, the Code Compliance Officer will investigate the property circumstances. There are no Town regulations identifying unacceptable property standards. There is no violation or nuisance that can be cited. There is no available fine process. As a result, many property owners will ignore the problem or only slightly address it. The blight often drags on indefinitely without proper resolution and may only end when the property is sold.

This ordinance will provide the town with an appropriate tool to address the problem of "troubled properties," providing relief to adjacent neighbors and improving the appearance of the general neighborhood.

Currently there are at least 20 to 25 properties that would be considered "blighted" under this ordinance. 15 to 20 of these are long-standing issues, and approximately five (5) have been identified by citizens' complaints, in recent months.

The RTM will take up this issue at its October 24, 2016 meeting, with consideration of an ordinance that has been prepared to address these issues.