

A Regular Meeting of the RTM Public Works Committee was held on Monday, October 17th, 2016. 11 out of 12 members attending. Present: Mark Adiletta, Patti Bumgardner, Jim Cameron, Thomas Moore, Brad Pattelli, Richard Poli, Mike Wheeler, Cheryl Russell, David Bayne, Jennifer Hite. Absent: Frank Adelman.

There was a joint information sessions with the PZ&H committee of the RTM which was called to order at 7:30pm to discuss the Blight Resolution that is about to be distributed for consideration at the 10/24 RTM meeting (Frank Kemp, Chairman of TGS&A was on hand to answer questions).

There were some important points raised:

-One member of Pz&H felt it was a long overdue ordinance. Kate Bates agreed. She lives on Ridgeley and has felt there is no mechanism for reporting Blight. A property on her street has been infested with rats and garbage and she feels that she gets pushed off, rather than action taken, when she or neighbors have called with complaints.

-Jeremy Ginsberg spoke about how many properties would be caught under the Blight ordinance. He said the number is 20-25 which may or may not have two Blight conditions. Frank Kemp noted that about 1/3 of identified Blight are owner-occupied and might be low-income or elderly, 1/3 bank foreclosure, and 1/3 developer who has "given up" on development.

-Richard Poli, PWC, was concerned with section 3, number 6 of the Ordinance which dealt with boats and boat trailers. Jeremy Ginsberg said that all boats must currently be screened from view as enforced by Planning and Zoning. Brad Pattelli, also agreed with Richard - if it exists in Planning and Zoning why are we adding it in as Blight. Numerous people have boats in their yards/driveways for a short time during the winter.

At 8:30, the PW Committee moved to discuss the resolution further and take on the remainder of our agenda. The general thoughts of the group were:

- 1) clarity of language
- 2) too many restrictions - boil them down to a few such as combining the grass and weeds section (they were two separate numbered items that could be combined)
- 3) remove the boat and trailer verbiage because how do you define appropriate coverage/screening of said items, plus we all thought it was an overreach to include those items, especially since it is included in planning and zoning rules.
- 4) Doesn't the Health Dept cover some of these issues such as rodents
- 5) Cheryl still had concerns about the elderly
- 6) Why the rush to vote next week at the RTM meeting?

After much discussion Mike Wheeler made a motion to approve Resolution 16-19, Approving a Blight Prevention Ordinance. There was one in favor, seven opposed and two abstentions.

The next business was Resolution 16-18 to Approve the Transfer of the Town's Interest in Hazel Street. Mark updated us that since 1959, Hazel Street has always been considered a private road. There has been some discussion of whether it is a private road as Eversource needed to obtain an easement for work. At this point, since it has been maintained as a private road since 1959, Town Council recommends approval to execute a Quitclaim Deed to abutting property owners.

Jenn Hite made a motion to approve Resolution 16-19; Tom Moore seconded. 10 members were in favor, 1 opposed.

Lastly, we discussed resolution 16-20, Amending Appendix B, Rules of Procedure of the RTM. The resolution would require CURRENT RTM members to have 50% attendance at RTM meetings and 50% attendance at Committee meetings to self nominate. If RTM members did not meet attendance requirements, they could still run for re-election, BUT they would need to collect 25 signatures to be on the ballot.

Tom thought this might hurt districts that are not fully staffed. Cheryl asked where the Resolution came from. Patti thought it was initiated by the former Moderator. Brad mentioned that District and Committee Chairs could be asked to talk to those with attendance problems.

Cheryl made a motion to vote on Resolution 16-20. Two were in favor; 9 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.