



TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

Office of the Township Manager

MEETING NOTES

February 24, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

TO: Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager

DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2022

SUBJECT: VPRB MEETING

REFERENCE: VPRB MEETING -MESSINO PROPERTIES

ATTENDEES: DAVID FORBES, CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONER SPIEGELMAN, LUCY STRACKHOUSE, MICHAEL SCHLAGHAUFER, KIM HAMM, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR/CODE DIVISION, MARIA WYRSTA, ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

SUMMARY: AS FOLLOWS

General Discussion:

Meeting notes from January 27, 2022 were approved.

Site updates:

Regarding the Messino properties at the corner of Tyson Avenue and Jenkintown Road; violation letters were issued as well as Township staff has been working with the Township Solicitor's Office to get these matters resolved. Since the last VPRB meeting, the owner has begun doing a series of improvements to the exterior of the "beer distributor" building such as making repairs to the masonry; removal of the lightboard sign; painting of the building and a small concrete parking stop was installed at the corner of the parking lot.

Township Solicitor is finalizing a petition for a preliminary injunction to bring properties into compliance and that starts with interior inspections. The Fire Marshal reached out numerous times over the past few weeks to gain access to conduct inspections and there has been no response. The filing should take place in the next two weeks, and once it has been filed, it takes about 30-days for the hearing to occur; however, that could vary depending on volume.

Commissioner Spiegelman noted that after our last meeting, he reached out to Commissioner Bole who has been working with Township Manager and Township Solicitor on this matter.

Residents expressed concern about the Messino properties and the lot across the street that looks like a “junk yard,” which is a safety hazard and should be added to the vacant property list. Also, about updates on other vacant properties and concern about the property located at 365 Cedar Road. Another resident expressed that if the building were to be redeveloped with residential housing, they would be happy to welcome new neighbors.

It was noted that the property is being included in the injunction request and has been cited for various noncompliant “features” on the property and violation notices were issued. The lot across the street falls under the definition of “blight” per the Urban Redevelopment Act, so the injunction is a good first step. Also, the property located at 365 Cedar Road is proposed for development of residential homes, which came before the Planning Commission for review.

Action Items and Responsibility:

Filing of petition of preliminary injunction of the Messino Properties located at 490 Tyson Ave; 2602, 2608 and 2610 Jenkintown Road to gain access to the buildings for inspection.

Next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, March 24, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary