

The stated meeting of the Vacant Property Review Board of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, April 24, 2025 via webinar with Chairman Yoni Hirt presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Chairman Yoni Hirt, Commissioner Spiegelman, Richard Goldstone

Also Present: Fire Marshal Chris Platz

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Hirt made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes from the Vacant Property Review Board Meeting of March 27, 2025.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

PRESENTATION: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on submittals and inspections:

Mr. Platz reported that the following vacant commercial property owners registered with the Township, and he provided their current status.

486 Tyson Avenue
490 Tyson Avenue
2602 Jenkintown Road
2606 Jenkintown Road
2608 Jenkintown Road
2818 Limekiln Pike
721 Cheltena Avenue
1850 Old York Road
1900 Old York Road
907 Township Line Road
1776 Old York Road
1407 Old York Road
1626 Old York Road

1642 Old York Road
1646 Old York Road

Mr. Hirt said aside from annual inspections, what is the process to determine occupancy?

Mr. Platz replied our Fire Inspections perform annual inspections of all commercial properties in the Township, and we have property maintenance inspectors touring the various wards and responding to concerns from citizens. Our property maintenance team has begun a new initiative where they will be proactively taking walking tours to keep our commercial areas looking good.

Mr. Hirt asked about notifying the owners of the property if something was found.

Mr. Platz replied they will be issued a notice of violation, and the timeframe depends on the violation in terms of how easy or difficult it is to remedy the situation. 30 days is the usual timeframe, but ultimately, our goal is compliance.

The Messina properties located at the corner of Jenkintown and Tyson Avenue may need some attention soon, although the property owner submitted his applications. The vacant review process was explained to the owner; however, he may need some constructive feedback. Also, the owner indicated that the properties have been listed for sale.

Mr. Hirt questioned whether there is still a conflict with the ownership of the Messina property.

Mr. Platz replied there is an arbiter involved with the internal family discussions.

Mr. Goldstone asked for the exact address of the property.

Mr. Platz replied there are five properties: 486 and 490 Tyson Avenue and 2602, 2606 and 2608 Jenkintown Road.

Mr. Goldstone asked about the transit-oriented development property near SEPTA.

Mr. Platz replied that property is located at 2610 Jenkintown Road and not part of the Messina property. He previously spoke with Ms. Hamm, Director of Community Development, about affordable housing through development.

Mr. Goldstone agreed that property could be affordable to the workforce with the proper mix of housing and suggested inviting Ms. Hamm to a VPRB meeting to discuss it further.

Mr. Platz agreed.

ADJOURNMENT:

5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Recording Secretary