

The stated meeting of the Vacant Property Review Board of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, May 22, 2025 via webinar with Chairman Yoni Hirt presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:03 p.m.

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

Also Present: Fire Marshal Chris Platz

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Goldstone to approve the minutes from the Vacant Property Review Board meeting of April 24, 2025.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

PRESENTATION: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on submittals and inspections:

Mr. Platz reported that not too much has changed since the last meeting; however, a few more inspections were conducted. A few vacant properties were added to the list, and we are trying to track down the owner. Regarding property located at 1706 Old York Road, the parking lot is being used for Bonnet Lane parking and the interior is being used for Bonnet Lane storage. We need to clarify whether it is a legitimate use because it is not a public facing business. Also, the property located at 1715 Old York Road is vacant and on his radar.

There are property owners who have not registered, and he has reached out to them; however, the building behind Dunkin Donuts on Easton and Edge Hill Roads still needs to register.

Mr. Hirt agreed that providing notice on what the issues are and giving them time before taking any action results in positive feedback and these updates are a great way to keep the community informed.

Mr. Bova asked how the map is utilized on the status of vacant properties.

Mr. Platz replied the map is color coded. Red indicates they need to register and green indicates we are keeping an eye on it.

Mr. Goldstone said regarding the intersection of Tyson and Jenkintown Road, he will reach out to Ms. Kim Hamm, Community Development Director, to invite her to our next meeting to discuss any ideas she might have on that intersection and what the next steps would be.

Mr. Hirt asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about the property at Tyson and Jenkintown Road and the owners that kept the building that way do not deserve the rest of us paying to help them. Were violations issued or does being on this list exempt them from any code violations?

Mr. Platz replied being on the list does not exempt but allows the opportunity to issue citations for violations, which is part of the inspection process.

Stephen Torpey, resident, said he is the owner of property located at 2610 Jenkintown Road, and his property is attached to the vacant property owned by the Messina family for the past 15 years. During that time, he has filed complaints about their property as it has been an eyesore and safety issue. It is great to see this Board actively trying to take care of the community. He asked about possible development, so this can be addressed soon.

Mr. Hirt clarified that Mr. Goldstone is going to have a discussion with Ms. Hamm about any possible opportunities which have not occurred yet, and no specific development was discussed last month.

Mr. Platz added there are five parcels. The owner has registered the property, so we are in the process of scheduling inspections to deal with the current conditions to make sure they are safe and maintained. Ms. Hamm, the Township's Director of Community Development, can look into possible grant opportunities and programs for the property owners to pursue or if someone else buys the property, they may want to pursue them.

Mr. Torpey said since he owned his business and building, the property next door has been vacant for 20 years, and he would like to see some turnover so we can make this intersection more appealing for the community.

Lora Lehmann, resident, commented that she takes great offense to someone who kept their property the way the Messina's did as well as getting grants towards it, because that is her money making them richer for being bad neighbors, and they should not be eligible.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Recording Secretary