

SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A special meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on February 18, 2016 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Town Attorney Judith Dixon, approximately 41 residents, reporter Hochswender, Brent Prindle taping for Channel 6 and the secretary.

First Selectman Colley called the meeting to order at 5:33.

The purpose of the meeting was for the BOS to hear the concerns on the residents in the Sharon Valley area.

Communications had been received by the BOS stating the concerns: excessive outdoor storage; furniture/trash and raw garbage in front yards (concerns: health hazard, economic and social); and squatters/vagrancy (concern: people living in a motor home).

Attorney Dixon spoke on Blight Ordinances: how they work – expenses, enforcement and reimbursement to town of expenses incurred (questionable). The definition of Blight can be difficult. To enforce, a town may need to hire an individual part-time (20 hours a week) to enforce the ordinance. The individual would probably need to be hired for a 3-4 year period in order to look at all properties in town. The State Attorney Generals' office does help municipalities with Blight Ordinances. The Town could also adopt Ordinances pertaining to: junk cars/storage of cars/and dealership AND "no more than (a certain number) of unregistered cars permitted".

It was stressed that the two particular properties in this area have been foreclosed upon and are now owned by banks. Mr. Colley read from an email he received dated December 30, 2015:

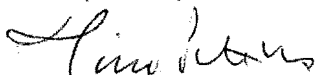
"Please understand that we realize the eviction process while strenuous for the community does need to follow certain requirements as dictated in the various statutes and codes set forth by the State of Connecticut. Our foreclosure attorney is working diligently on the eviction process and we hope to have results soon. Once the eviction has taken place, we will reach out to contractors in the area and start requesting bids for an exterior/interior trash out and ensure the necessary property preservation measures are taken to maintain the property in a safe condition until the selling of the property." Attorney Dixon stressed that an eviction process can take up to six months.

The BOS will be looking into Blight Ordinances but stressed that right now they are in the budget process. Various topics were discussed.

The Board thanked everyone for attending this meeting and coming forth with information. Attorney Dixon was thanked for her attendance and information as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary

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