



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman
Richard C. Straiton, Selectman
Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman

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TOWN OF BETHEL
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MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

January 15, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance was Town Counsel Martin Lawlor.

First Selectman Knickerbocker opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Dick Moody, Putnam Park Road: Among other comments, offered that he is not in support of this ordinance.

Dan Muldahill, Realtor: Among other comments, offered his support of this ordinance to protect property values.

Carl Verner, Grassy Plain Street: Among other comments, offered that people facing hard times and don't need the town telling them what to do with their property.

AJ Bernard, Highview Terrace: Among other comments, offered that this ordinance duplicates what is already available to town departments, we don't need it. Expand what is already in place.

Town Counsel Martin Lawlor clarified that the Fire Marshal does not have authority over single family homes, only multiple family, commercial and industrial buildings.

Brian Walters, Walnut Hill Road: Among other comments, offered that we don't need this ordinance but do need to create a noise and littering ordinance.

Beth Cavagna, Plumtrees Road: Among other comments, asked for a clarification on the procedures of how the ordinance would be utilized.

Kevin Dee, Oven Rock: Among other comments, offered full support of the ordinance. He maintains his property, neighbor does not.

Rob Schweitzer, South Street: Among other comments, offered full support of the ordinance.

Billy Michael, Fleetwood Avenue: Among other comments, spoke in opposition to the ordinance as being too restrictive.

Cynthia McCorkindale, Elgin Avenue: Among other comments, spoke in opposition to the ordinance as being too restrictive and if there are fire/safety issues, use what is in place now.

Brenda McNeil, Highland Avenue: Among other comments, asked that the town work with residents when hiring contractors.

Regina Ippolito, Linda Lane: Among other comments, suggested adding “washing” to the ordinance as well and spoke of residents with “permanent dumpsters”.

Charles Noe, Greenwood Avenue: Among other comments, spoke in opposition to the ordinance as being too restrictive and that the town does not even enforce current violations.

Dominic Ippolito, Linda Lane: Among other comments, offered that the ordinance is a good first step, would like the addition of trailers, mobile homes and abandoned cars.

Irene White, Sunset Hill: Among other comments, offered that this would allow people to make complaints against anyone.

John Rondano, Plumtrees Road: Among other comments, offered that he mostly opposed to the ordinance. Building officials should enforce building codes.

Frank Islip, Evergreen Drive: Among other comments, offered that the ordinance is a joke; town departments should enforce current violations.

Christopher Glahn, Elizabeth Street: Among other comments, offered that this ordinance makes him not want to live here; there is no need for this ordinance and that seniors shouldn't be exempt.

David Glahn, Elizabeth Street: Among other comments, offered that departments should enforce what is already in place. Exempting seniors is wrong; they are being targeted and are part of the town.

Rosalie Donofrio, Fleetwood Avenue advised that she is against the ordinance.

James White, Sunset Hill: Among other comments, offered that this gives too much power, most items are covered already; enforce what is currently in place.

Diana Meribick, Elizabeth Street: Among other comments, offered that there should be some kind of blight, agrees that there should be a noise and littering ordinance and town should enforce what is currently in place like snow removal on sidewalks.

Jacob Meribick, Elizabeth Street: Among other comments, offered town should enforce snow removal ordinance.

Resident, Bethpage Drive: Among other comments, offered that she wasn't able to sell property because of their neighbor's neglect of the property.

Meredith Binder, Codfish Hill Road: Among other comments, offered that she is in support of an ordinance but that maybe this one is just too broad.

Resident, 111 Grassy Plain Street: Among other comments, offered that property values go down when properties are not maintained, has a "used car" lot across the street, ordinance should be modified, town needs to enforce current regulations.

Kim Amano, Grassy Plain Street: Among other comments, offered that she is in support of the ordinance but it should be modified.

Sue Miller, Nashville Road: Among other comments, offered that for real estate values and quality of life issues, she in support of the ordinance.

Resident, Melillo Avenue: Among other comments, offered that we definitely need an ordinance but it does need to be modified.

Pat Scollon, Reservoir Street: Among other comments, offered that she would support an ordinance for major items.

Bill Scollon, Reservoir Street: Among other comments, offered that there is a house on Reservoir that is a dumping ground/eyesore.

Laurie Martin, Nashville Road: Among other comments, presented photos depicting various locations in town that fall under blight conditions and are in need of attention

Bob Meyers, Woodlawn Drive: Among other comments, offered that if there wasn't a need for an ordinance, we wouldn't be here this evening – sections of town need to be addressed.

Christie Holland, Sharon Court: Among other comments, offered that the ordinance is a really bad idea, make existing rules more enforceable.

J. Phillip Gallagher, Sunset Hill: Among other comments, offered that the town should lead by example, instead, let the old town hall deteriorate.

Andy Beaulipal, Bethpage Drive: Among other comments, offered that he was not able to sell his property due to the condition of a neighbor's property.

Ray Cromwell, Midway Drive: Among other comments, offered that we should fix the cracks in our existing laws.

David Morgan, Sunset Hill Road: Among other comments, offered that while town employees are out driving around, they could note any violations they see; residents should not have to file complaints. Also noted that the town does not enforce current regulations.

Phil Morgan, Sunset Hill Road: Among other comments, is not in support of the proposed ordinance.

Resident, Nashville Road Ext. Among other comments, agreed that we need some sort of ordinance, this one needs to be modified a bit.

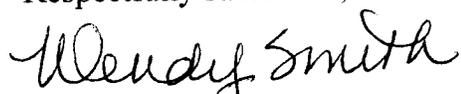
Bob Legnard, Evergreen Drive: Among other comments offered that we have to be able to enforce the regulations we already have, any additions to town codes need to be enforceable.

Ann Cleary, Plumtrees Condos: Among other comments, believes a Citizen Review Committee is needed

Town Counsel Martin Lawlor pointed out that the Citations/Civil Penalties Ordinance would enhance the town's ability for enforcement and collection of fines. The Board of Selectmen thanked all in attendance for their comments, noting that all comments will be taken under consideration; the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear what residents had to say regarding the proposed ordinance.

First Selectman Knickerbocker closed the Public Hearing at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary