

***Town of New Fairfield
Board of Selectmen
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812***

MINUTES

**Board of Selectmen Public Hearing
Thursday, September 27, 2012
7:00 PM
Community Room at 33 Route 37**

Members present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Susan Chapman, Selectman
Mike Gill, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Chris Baldwin, Building Inspector
Tim Simpkins, Health Director
Jack Keating, Town Counsel

Call To Order Selectman Susan Chapman called the Public Hearing to order at 7:05pm. In addition to the Board of Selectmen and Town Officials there were about 45 members of the public present. The purpose of this Public Hearing was to get public input regarding the proposed Blight Ordinance.

Selectman Mike Gill noted that over the last year or two the Building Dept and the Selectmen's office started to receive complaints regarding some potential blight in town. To date, no ordinance is in effect to enforce these problems. Selectman Mike Gill and Selectman Susan Chapman met with Building Inspector Chris Baldwin and Director of Health Tim Simpkins and went through blight ordinances from approximately 25 other Connecticut towns and compiled a draft blight ordinance. This was reviewed by Town Counsel.

Approximately 16 members of the public gave their opinion regarding the proposed ordinance. Specific topics discussed included how this ordinance would be enforced and who would determine if a property is in violation of the blight ordinance. Several members of the public spoke of a situation where a scrap yard is on their street. Burning rubber is an issue with this property and the homeowners are worried about air quality and health and safety issues. There was a question as to whether or not this would be violation of zoning regulations.

Other members of the public spoke of houses in their neighborhoods that may be considered blight. It was suggested that the Blight Ordinance be tailored to more specific issues such as health and safety and abandoned properties instead of aesthetics. There was a discussion of the economy and the difficulty that some homeowners may with the upkeep of their home.

Many members of the public suggested that this draft ordinance be looked at again so as not to take away rights of homeowners. First Selectman Hodge noted that there will be at least one more meeting regarding this draft ordinance before bringing it to a Town Meeting.

Adjournment

The Public Hearing ended at 7:50pm