

**PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE  
LANDLORD/MANAGERS MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 23, 2020**

Present: Chair Bill Schmidt, Jim Hilborn, Trustee Chester Pojack

Also Present: *Staff liaison:* Tom Bialas, Steve Kalish,

Absent: Sandy Gresak, Syed Razvi, Mohammed Siddiqi, Paul Gasiacki

Chairman Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**Minutes**

The August 26, 2020 minutes were approved as amended.

Corrected to reflect Trustee Pojack was absent for the 8/26/2020 meeting.

**Discussion Items:**

- Open Burning and Fire Pit regulations were discussed by Assistant to the Director Tom Bialas and Lead Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kalish.
- The Village adopted the 2006 International Fire Code which is the regulating ordinance regarding open burning. Section 307.1.1 prohibits open burning.
  - Permits are required before any fires, such as controlled burns of detention areas or wildlife areas to manage such areas.
  - Persons or organizations seeking to have a bonfire are also required to obtain a permit, as such fires fall under the open burning Code.
  - Permits are reviewed for approval / denial by the local fire protection district.
  - Open burning, as permitted, cannot be less than 50 feet of any structure and steps must be made / present to prevent the spread to within that 50 feet of any structure. (Section 307.4)
  - Under the Code there are two exceptions:
    - Fires in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet from a structure. E.g., UL Rated fire pits sold at local stores.
    - That minimum distance from a structure increases to 25 feet for 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. E.g., Masonry fire pits built in a yard.
  - Fires are required to be constantly attended until extinguished. (Section 307.5)
    - At fires the Code requires the presence of a way to extinguish any fire.
    - Extinguishers with a minimum of a 4-A rating or other approved extinguishing equipment such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose need to be available for immediate use.
- Community Development enforces the Code when fire pits are not in compliance.
  - When fire department personnel identify violations, they work with Community Development inspectors to correct the violations and take enforcement action when needed.
  - Village requirements for fire pits include that only seasoned firewood can be burned.

- Where masonry fire pits are being built, a permit is required to ensure compliance with the Fire Code and Zoning restrictions.
- Discussion included viewing a video involving the Glenside Fire Protection District's fire pit safety demonstration reported to local news channels after a fire pit accident occurred in May of 2018.
- AtD. Bialas advised Fire Marshal Brad Butler of Glenside Fire was consulted before the presentation. F.M. Butler requested the following reminder be provided anytime fire pits are discussed. Fire safety around any open burning is extremely important. Constant supervision, especially of minors, is required. Being prepared to extinguish the fire when done, as well as in the event of an emergency, cannot be overlooked.

#### **Topic of Discussion – Miscellaneous Discussion by Committee**

- Trustee Pojack inquired about two properties near him with issues of garbage can storage and rubbish/wood pile storage. Insp. Kalish advised Code Enforcement Officers have been assigned and are investigating. No information regarding resolution of the issues was available at the meeting. Update to be provided.
- Chairman Schmidt inquired about the on-going issues at 1336 Davine. AtD. Bialas advised that the property has been brought into compliance with the Vacant Building Ordinance registration and ownership has been provided an updated list of issues identified with the property. Some exterior items have been corrected, a broken window is fixed and a downed tree has been removed. Ownership is aware the situation is being monitored by Code Enforcement and could be subject to additional citations if the property is not maintained. Ownership also mentioned that they were considering selling the property.
- Those in attendance brought no other items to the attention of the Committee.

#### **Next Meeting:**

- The next Property Enhancement Meeting will include the Landlord/Managers Meeting on October 28, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chamber on the second floor at Village Hall.

**Adjourn:** Chairman Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM.