

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BERKS COUNTY BLIGHTED PROPERTY
REVIEW COMMITTEE**

May 21, 2024

Eileen Kastura, Chairman called the meeting of the **BERKS COUNTY BLIGHTED PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE (BPRC)** to order at 2:38 P.M. on May 21, 2024. The meeting was held as a public meeting by way of the Zoom virtual platform and allowed for full Committee and public interaction during the meeting and hearings. The following Committee members were present during the meeting:

Eileen Kastura, Chairman
Denise Commings, Vice Chair
Ronald Heim, Secretary

Members Lee Olsen and Commissioner Michael Rivera were absent. After Roll Call, Chairman Kastura declared a quorum with three of five members present.

Also in attendance were:

Joan E. London, Esquire of Kozloff Stoudt, P.C., Solicitor
Pauline Klopp, Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks
Jaime Perez, Deputy Director, Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks
Joshua Young, Code Enforcement Officer, Borough of Kutztown
Adam Bender, Code Official, Borough of Mt. Penn
William Frymoyer, Code Official, Cumru Township

The minutes of the meeting of March 26, 2024 meeting had been distributed to the members prior to the meeting. As there were insufficient members able to vote on the March minutes, a motion was made by Chairman Kastura, with a second by Vice Chair Commings, to table the consideration of the minutes to the July 23, 2024 agenda. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously by the members present.

There was no Old Business on the agenda for consideration.

Under New Business, a motion was made by Vice Chair Commings, with a second by Mr. Heim, for authorization to advertise and hold a Certification Hearing for the property located at 103-105 East Main Street, Borough of Kutztown, at the July 23, 2024 meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously by the members present.

The second item for consideration was 63 Hemlock Road, Cumru Township. The Referral Packet had been forwarded to Members of the Commission. Mr. Frymoyer reported to the Committee that the property had been in the same condition for years, and the owners, when cited for the conditions, would simply pay the fines and not

remediate. A motion was made by Vice Chair Commings, with a second by Mr. Heim, to send a First Strike Letter to the owner of the property at 63 Hemlock Road, Cumru Township. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously by the members present.

Chairman Kastura asked for updates from the Solicitor. Attorney London reported as follows:


264 Friedensburg Road, Borough of Mt. Penn. Attorney London referred the update to Mr. Bender on behalf of the Borough of Mt. Penn. Mr. Bender reported that the mortgage lender has assumed responsibility, and the owner has vacated the property. The trash has been removed from the exterior, and the mortgage lender has authorized repairs on the outdoor columns. The owner has been given thirty (30) days to remove personal property from the premises.

708 Chew Street, Borough of Hamburg/727 State Street, Borough of Hamburg. There was no update, as Bryce Zohner, who had given past updates, no longer works for the Borough. Attorney London will contact the Borough Manager, Amy Beakley, for further update for the July 23, 2024 meeting.

2319 Fairview Avenue, Borough of Mt. Penn. A hearing will be held on June 11, 2024 on the Conservatorship Petition before Judge Madelyn Fudeman. Attorney London has been in touch with the Tax Claim Bureau over taxes owed on the property.

With no additional business items, a motion was made by Chairman Kastura, with a second by Vice Chair Commings to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously of the members present, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

BERKS COUNTY BLIGHTED
PROPERTY REVIEW
COMMITTEE



Ronald Heim, Secretary