

I am not sure that there need to be changes to the Blight Ordinance enacted in April 2017 as there need to be serious enforcement. My opinion is that these changes are a smokescreen for the behavior of the zoning department. Please let me share with you my experience and reactions with the blight complaint I filed with the zoning department.

First, why should the First Selectman get involved in the enforcement and/or non-enforcement of the Blight Ordinance?

I waited for the blight ordinance to be written, approved and enacted. Then I filed a complaint only to wait for the process to play out with attempted enforcement.

My experience with filing a blight complaint has been disappointing and disturbing. My expectations were high with a new Blight Ordinance. The reality was and is mismanagement.

I filed the first complaint filed under the Blight Ordinance April 2017. A citation against the offender by the BEO was not issued until May 2018. The offender did not comply with the violation prescriptions. A hearing was held in accordance with the procedures in July 2018. A fine was assessed, an abatement plan was presented to the offender and an agreement was signed with the offender in August 2018. The fine was not paid timely. It still isn't paid. The original fine was set at \$3600 to be reduced to \$600 upon completion of the actions by the offender by a certain date. The abatement agreement still is not complete! The fine should be over \$38,000. The offender is being protected by the BEO.

There was no sense of urgency on the part of the BEO. He was negligent in the performance of his duties and responsibilities. The performance can only be characterized as a dereliction of duty and nonfeasance, misfeasance and malfeasance on the part of the BEO and his supervisor.

Nonfeasance is the failure to act where action is required—willfully or in neglect. **Misfeasance** is the willful inappropriate action or intentional incorrect action or advice. **Malfeasance** is the willful and intentional action that injures a party. I am injured by the lack of enforcement of a hearing officer's written decision.

Offenders are emboldened by lack of enforcement and inconsistent application of blight ordinance and zoning regulations.

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Ineffective and incompetent Blight Enforcement Officers and their management require training.

There was no communication on the part of the zoning department management with me when the BEO was ineffective and/or absent. There has been no response to my continued and persistent emails to Abby Piersall for over fifteen months. My email complaints to Abby Piersall were ignored. This is a total and complete lack of customer service. I am completely disappointed in the town elected officials and town zoning employees.

Ben Franklin is quoted as saying "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

Mark Dalton

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