

# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Blight Task Force Minutes  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 14, 2015  
Colchester Town Hall @ 7PM**

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COLCHESTER, CT  
2015 OCT 15 PM 12:54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ron Silberman, Matthew Trant, RoseMarie Bagioni, Richard Waugh, Christian Choma

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Stan Soby, and Clerk T. Dean

**1. Call to Order**

First Selectman S. Soby called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**2. Purpose of Task Force**

S Soby advised the group to think of what things pose a health and safety related issue. The state did not come up with a model for towns to follow the first time around with the Blight Commission. Information from staff has been collected for the group to review and take into consideration.

**3. Review of Rules Governing Task Force**

Meetings shall be held in public session. There are special provisions under which the commission can be in executive session. Agenda and minutes to be posted to comply with FOI.

**4. First Selectman Charge**

Charge was given by First Selectman Stan Soby to the group (attached). Ordinances recommended by the group would be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen and then would go to Town Meeting from there for final vote approval. The town has an established hearing process for following ordinances.

**5. Review of Relevant Information**

Discussion regarding avenues of communication to residents during the process. Town has a weekly eblast, website, facebook page, utilizes the newspaper, as well as public comment sessions will be conducted.

The task force has a year life span, with a deliverable being a proposed ordinance. The anticipation would be for the group to come up with a proposal within approximately 6 months.

**6. Discussion and Possible Action on Election of Officers**

TABLED TO NEXT MEETING

**7. Discussion and Possible Action on Future Meeting Dates and Times**

Next meeting scheduled for 11/5 and 12/9 @ 7pm

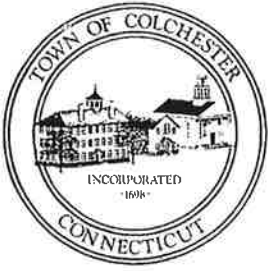
**8. Adjourn**

R Silberman moved to adjourn at 9:00pm, seconded by R Bagioni. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Attachment: Blight Ordinance Task Force Charge

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk



# *Town of Colchester, Connecticut*

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Blight Ordinance Task Force  
Charge  
October 14, 2015

The purpose of the Blight Ordinance Task Force is to create an ordinance proposal that defines blight and develops ways to abate blights and nuisances in order to protect, preserve, and promote public health, safety and welfare; and to preserve and protect property values.

Considerations:

- Should be simple and easy to understand
- Define blight while recognizing the right to farm
- Define objective measurements
- Must be enforceable with current staff
- Focus should be on Health and Safety (e.g. trash, recyclables), not lifestyle
- Must address vacant/bank-owned properties and absentee landlords
- Must be a fair process for accepting complaints and for property owners to respond
- Inclusion of an appeals process
- Must be right for Colchester