

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

MAY 22, 2025



VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD



TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD

A G E N D A **May 22, 2025** **5:00 PM**

Webinar Information:

Join by computer, tablet or application: <https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/85353339569>
Join by telephone: 1-929-436-2866 and entering the meeting ID number 853-5333-9569
when prompted.
Meeting ID: 853-5333-9569

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Vacant Property Review Board Meeting of April 24, 2025.

PRESENTATION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Update on submittals and inspections - *Chris Platz*

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

BOARD POLICY ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

For Information Purposes Only

The Township shall conduct business in accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Laws governing the conduct of public meetings and only establish guidelines that shall govern public participation at meetings consistent with the law.

Each commenter shall:

- Direct their comments to the Presiding Officer;
- Speak from the podium or into a microphone designated by the presiding officer;
- State their name for the record;
- Either orally or in writing provide their address for the record;
- Have a maximum of three minutes to make their comments. Each commenter when speaking to a specific agenda item, is to keep their comments relative to that identified agenda item;
- Speak one time per agenda item;
- When commenting on non-agenda items, the commenter is to keep their comments related to matters of the Township of Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.
- State a question to the Presiding Officer after all commenters have spoken, and;
- Be seated after speaking or upon the request of the presiding officer;
- Not engage in debate, dialogue or discussion;
- Not disrupt the public meeting, and;
- Exercise restraint and sound judgement in avoiding the use of profane language, and the maligning of others.

The stated meeting of the Vacant Property Review Board of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, April 24, 2025 via webinar with Chairman Yoni Hirt presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Chairman Yoni Hirt, Commissioner Spiegelman, Richard Goldstone

Also Present: Fire Marshal Chris Platz

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Hirt made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes from the Vacant Property Review Board Meeting of March 27, 2025.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

PRESENTATION: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on submittals and inspections:

Mr. Platz reported that the following vacant commercial property owners registered with the Township, and he provided their current status.

486 Tyson Avenue
490 Tyson Avenue
2602 Jenkintown Road
2606 Jenkintown Road
2608 Jenkintown Road
2818 Limekiln Pike
721 Cheltena Avenue
1850 Old York Road
1900 Old York Road
907 Township Line Road
1776 Old York Road
1407 Old York Road
1626 Old York Road

1642 Old York Road
1646 Old York Road

Mr. Hirt said aside from annual inspections, what is the process to determine occupancy?

Mr. Platz replied our Fire Inspections perform annual inspections of all commercial properties in the Township, and we have property maintenance inspectors touring the various wards and responding to concerns from citizens. Our property maintenance team has begun a new initiative where they will be proactively taking walking tours to keep our commercial areas looking good.

Mr. Hirt asked about notifying the owners of the property if something was found.

Mr. Platz replied they will be issued a notice of violation, and the timeframe depends on the violation in terms of how easy or difficult it is to remedy the situation. 30 days is the usual timeframe, but ultimately, our goal is compliance.

The Messina properties located at the corner of Jenkintown and Tyson Avenue may need some attention soon, although the property owner submitted his applications. The vacant review process was explained to the owner; however, he may need some constructive feedback. Also, the owner indicated that the properties have been listed for sale.

Mr. Hirt questioned whether there is still a conflict with the ownership of the Messina property.

Mr. Platz replied there is an arbiter involved with the internal family discussions.

Mr. Goldstone asked for the exact address of the property.

Mr. Platz replied there are five properties: 486 and 490 Tyson Avenue and 2602, 2606 and 2608 Jenkintown Road.

Mr. Goldstone asked about the transit-oriented development property near SEPTA.

Mr. Platz replied that property is located at 2610 Jenkintown Road and not part of the Messina property. He previously spoke with Ms. Hamm, Director of Community Development, about affordable housing through development.

Mr. Goldstone agreed that property could be affordable to the workforce with the proper mix of housing and suggested inviting Ms. Hamm to a VPRB meeting to discuss it further.

Mr. Platz agreed.

ADJOURNMENT:

5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Recording Secretary