

**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 14, 2019, 6:45 P.M.
TOWN HALL**

Board Members Present: Supervisor Herrington, Councilman Christian, Councilman Sullivan and Councilman Casale and Councilman Balistreri.

Board Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Town Attorney, Thomas Cioffi and Town Clerk, William J. Lewis.

Supervisor Herrington called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and instructed the Town Clerk to read the Notice of Public Hearing. The notice had been published in The Record and posted at Town Hall and on the Town website. The hearing was for the purpose of accepting public comment on Introductory Local Law No. 1 entitled “**A Local Law Enacting New Regulations Regarding the Maintenance of Brush, Grass and Weeds in the Town of Brunswick**”.

Stephen Rooney, Town Sole Assessor, gave a brief overview of the Proposed Local Law. This would dovetail with proposed Local Law No. 1 so that if a property is not being maintained the Town would have recourse to, as a last resort, initiate cleanup by a contractor or town employees and bill the costs to the owner of title.

Supervisor Herrington opened the meeting for public comment.

VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Mr. Jim Tkacik, 383 Brunswick Rd., noted that this was not on the Town website. He made numerous points about why he felt the law should not be considered and offered “what if” scenarios in relation to it. Beside what he considered the vagueness of the law, he felt that there could be a possibility of “selective enforcement” and residents or even officials trying to use the law as a type of weapon against a particular homeowner. He also questioned if the Town should even have the right to tell a homeowner how to maintain their property. At best, he felt this could be addressed/added to the proposed Local Law No. 1 concerning vacant property and leave it at that.

Daniel Weeks, 6 Broadview Court, addressed the Board. Diverse flora & fauna in the Town was one of the reasons he and his wife moved here and this diversity is what is necessary for birds, pollinators, wildlife and the protection of the numerous wetlands and waterways in town from soil erosion. While the intent of the law is understandable, its implementation could be detrimental, damaging beyond repair the eco-system that is unique to Brunswick, now and for future generations. He agreed with the previous speaker that it should not be considered. Again, tying in with the proposed vacant property law may be appropriate.

The board thanked both speakers for their input and noted these were points well taken. The Board discussed keeping the Public Hearing open. If this proposed Local Law were to be

significantly amended, a new Public Hearing on the amended version would be noticed and scheduled.

Supervisor Herrington made a motion to keep the Public Hearing open, seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Christian made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Lewis
Town Clerk