



PROFILE | Town of Framingham

The Town of Framingham is being very proactive in trying to tackle the foreclosure problem by using data-driven decision making techniques, coordinating with town departments, focusing on code enforcement and making financing available to homeowners via their Foreclosed Properties Monitoring Program.

Framingham's Foreclosed Properties Monitoring Program

The Framingham Building Department established an ongoing property tracking system for foreclosed properties early in 2008. The system identifies and tracks properties in various stages of the foreclosure process, initiates a continuing inspection and monitoring program, coordinates with other town agencies, notifies banks of current conditions and works with banks to accelerate resale of those properties.

Data Driven Decision Making

The data that the Building Department maintains is updated weekly and formatted into reports that are distributed once a month to the Town Manager's Task Force, a group made up of representatives from Inspectional Services, Fire, Police and the Board of Health and meets regularly to review foreclosure data. Each month, the information is mapped and that helps to identify neighborhoods that may suffer from a proliferation of foreclosures. The maps are then shared with other town departments.

Interdepartmental Coordination

The Building Department has also initiated an outreach program that was designed to coordinate with key municipal departments in the area of property inspections and monitoring. The Building Department meets with representatives from Inspectional Services, Fire, Police and the Board of Health to update them on inspectional activities. The outreach has strengthened the coordination among departments, resulting in more regular monitoring of potentially problematic properties. For instance, the Fire Department forwards information regarding problem properties to each individual fire station, which then visually inspects the properties. The process is repeated by the Police and DPW.

Outreach to Financial Institutions

The bank that is listed on the foreclosure notice is notified by the Building Department that its property is being monitored by the town inspectional staff. If there is a need for prompt action to secure the building, the bank is immediately notified. Lately, the Building Department has experienced problems with tracking the correct responsible party which can delay responsive action.

Financial Assistance for Homebuyers

The Foreclosure Task Force has recognized a need for an incentive program that focuses on foreclosed properties. The Town has been working with the private sector – local bankers, mortgage brokers and realtors – to create a discount offering for mortgages and home purchases. This effort is modeled after the “Buy Worcester Now” program.

Contact | Eugene Kennedy

Community and Economic Development Assistant Director
Town of Framingham
150 Concord St
Room B2
Framingham, MA 01702
Phone: (508) 532-5455
efk@framinghamma.gov