

Wallingford Board of Abatement
Minutes
September 21, 2015

Present: Board members for Justice of the Peace were Chair Wendy Savery, Sue Thayer, Charlie Gauthier, Sandy Eddy, Tom Truex, Judy Edmunds, Ruth Anne Barker, and Lynn Edmunds; Selectboard members Rose Regula, Nelson Tift, and Bill Brooks; Town Listers Dave Ballou and Jane Quigley, and Town Clerk Julie Sharon

Chair W. Savery called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

There were no changes or additions made to the agenda.

No one appeared on behalf of the requestor. Chair Wendy Savery read the email (attached) from Gwenn West asking to abate taxes at 140 White Rocks Picnic Road (#0890140/681-216-10488). The Wests' have moved to Florida and cannot afford to pay their mortgage or the taxes as high as they are. They have had the home listed for sale for over a year, but it has not sold.

Dave Ballou made a motion to deny the request. Nelson Tift seconded the motion.

The Board asked if they had any delinquent taxes and Julie Sharon replied no. Julie reported that the property is assessed at \$332,300. She also stated that the Wests' owned two additional properties in Wallingford that may be rentals, and that their taxes are current.

The Board only has the power to grant abatement if the taxpayer falls within one of the criteria in 24 V.S.A. §1535(a). There was discussion on what reason #2 in the statute meant: "taxes of persons who have removed from the State". The Board did not want to set a precedent by abating the taxes because they moved out of state as it would mean a loss of income to the Town. Following further discussion, the vote was taken it and the motion passed unanimously (14-0).

There was no other business to be heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m. on a motion made by B. Brooks, and seconded by J. Edmunds. The motion passed unanimously.

Julie M. Sharon, Town Clerk