

Wallingford Board of Abatement
Minutes
July 20, 2021

Board Members Present: Justice of the Peace: Wendy Savery, Maureen Duchesne, Sandy Eddy, Curtis Lidstone, Tom Truex, Nikolaus Houghton, Kate Goetz, and Maria French; Selectboard Member: John McClallen, Bruce Duchesne and Kathy Luzader, and Town Clerk Julie Sharon

Board Members Absent: Nelson Tift, Rose Regula, Tony Petrossi, and Stanley Seward

Others Present: Assessor John Tiffany and Asst. Town Clerk Jill Stone-Teer

Town Clerk J. Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. and conducted nominations for chair. T. Truex nominated Sandy Eddy as chair; Sandy declined. B. Duchesne nominated Wendy Savery as chair and K. Luzader seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The nomination of Wendy Savery as chair was approved (11-0). Wendy did not vote. W. Savery conducted nominations for vice chair. T. Truex nominated Nikolaus Houghton as vice chair. C. Lidstone seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The nomination of Nikolaus Houghton as vice chair was approved (11-0). Nikolaus did not vote.

Chair Savery reviewed the procedures for conducting business. No additions or deletions were made to the agenda, although the order of agenda items would be rearranged.

The minutes of the December 21, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion made by S. Eddy and seconded by M. French. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Drew & Sally Elwood, #0150207, Span #681-216-10576; 24 V.S.A. §1535(a)(5) taxes or charges upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year.

The hearing opened at 6:54 p.m. The Elwood's were not present for the abatement hearing. Assessor J. Tiffany reported on the fire that occurred at the Elwood residence on January 21, 2021. It destroyed two garages and the porch. The assessor visited the property and reduced the value by \$41,400 to \$451,100. They are seeking an abatement of taxes from January 31 to June 30, 2021. The hearing was closed at 6:58 p.m.

The Board went into deliberative session at 6:58 p.m. and came out at 7:02 p.m.

Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office, #0380553, Span #681-216-10026; 24 V.S.A. §1535(a)(3) taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees.

The hearing opened at 7:05 p.m. No one from Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office called in as planned. The members read their request for abatement. Their request stated that they have received a Section 501(c)(3) tax exemption from the IRS and that they will be filing

for a Tax Exemption under Vermont law. The Tribe and NITHPO have limited resources and no economic development to otherwise sustain its tax burden. The hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office, #0410548, Span #681-216-10066; 24 V.S.A. §1535(a)(3) taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees.

The hearing opened at 7:10 p.m. No one from Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office called in as planned. The members read their request for abatement. Their request stated that they have received a Section 501(c)(3) tax exemption from the IRS and that they will be filing for a Tax Exemption under Vermont law. The Tribe and NITHPO have limited resources and no economic development to otherwise sustain its tax burden. The hearing was closed at 7:15.

The Board went into deliberative session at 7:15 p.m. and came out at 7:35 p.m.

Maple Valley Grange #318, #0470031, Span #681-216-10670; 24 V.S.A. §1535(a)(3) taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees.

The hearing opened at 7:35 p.m. No one from the Maple Valley Grange #318 was present. Their request stated that they have been unable to operate due to COVID-19. The hearing was closed at 7:37 p.m.

The Board went into deliberative session at 7:37 p.m. and came out at 7:45 p.m.

Thomas & Derek Pitts, #0470301, Span #681-216-10596; no statutory criteria provided.

Thomas Pitts called in to the meeting at 7:45 p.m. at which time the hearing was opened. Mr. Pitts said that he purchased the property at tax sale, as 4.7 acres, in 2011. He had the land surveyed this year due to issues with the neighbors. The survey shows the parcel is 1.7 acres. Assessor Tiffany stated that following Mr. Pitts' grievance, the value was lowered from \$27,300 to \$2,300 for GL year 2021 and a notice was mailed to Mr. Pitts. Mr. Pitts was asked who prepared the survey (Tinker) and if it was recorded (on 2/21/21). Mr. Pitts is requesting abatement of taxes based on the 1.7 acres back to the time of purchase. The hearing was closed at 7:53 p.m.

The Board went into deliberative session at 7:53 p.m. and came out at 8:15 p.m.

Fred & Anne Wolf, #0420451, Span #681-216-11207; 24 V.S.A. §1535(a)(3) taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees.

The hearing opened at 8:15 p.m. The Wolf's were not present at the abatement meeting. Their request stated that they were ill with Covid and overlooked the April payment. They have regularly paid their taxes for over 50 years without exception. They were unaware of the due date until the delinquent letter arrived in the mail. The hearing closed at 8:19 p.m.

The Board went into deliberative session at 8:19 p.m. and came out at 8:21 p.m.

Henry & Susan Gobetz, #0429482, Span #681-216-10434; no statutory criteria selected.

The hearing opened at 8:21 p.m. The Gobetz's were not present at the abatement meeting. Their request stated that Mrs. Gobetz is receiving radiation treatment for cancer and has been in the

hospital and the rehab facility. Mr. Gobetz plans to pay the tax amount due but asked that the tax penalty be removed. The hearing closed at 8:25 p.m.

The Board went into deliberative session at 8:25 p.m. and came out at 8:35 p.m.

Clerk J. Sharon will write the decisions for the Chair's signature.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a motion made by K. Luzader and seconded by S. Eddy. The motion passed unanimously.

Julie M. Sharon, Town Clerk

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