

Board of Abatement
Bennington, VT

Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022

****Members Present:** Cassie Barbeau, Jeanne Conner, Peter Green, Tom Haley, Jackie Kelly, Albert Krawczyk, Bruce Lee-Clark, Jim Marsden, Anne Mook, Mary Morrissey, David Shaffe, Anna Swierad and Kayla Thompson

****Also Present:** Joyce Silvestro, Director of Collections and John Antognioni, Chief Assessor

****Purpose of Meeting:** To hear annual requests for abatement

****Meeting called to order by Board Chair, David Shaffe, at 4:30 PM.**

****David Shaffe administers the Oath and circulated it for signatures.**

****Joyce Silvestro, Director of Collections, presented one mobile home for abatement, which has been removed from the parcel. It is parcel 57-50-18-09, Scott Andrews, 129 Morgan Street. Amount to be abated is \$1,302.81. Bruce Lee-Clark made the motion to abate as presented, seconded by Mary Morrissey, motion passed unanimously.**

****John Antognioni, Chief Assessor, presented two properties for abatement that were damaged or destroyed by fire during the year. The first parcel, 10-01-16-00, property owned by Walter Moses II at 141 Moses Farm Road. The property consists of three houses and outbuildings. One of the houses was destroyed by fire on July 20, 2022 and is no longer habitable. With the total assessed value adjusted for the one lost building, the amount of taxes to be abated is \$1,517.34 plus any necessary interest due to the property owner. Bruce Lee-Clark made the motion to abate as presented, seconded by Mary Morrissey, motion passed unanimously.**

****Also presented by John Antognioni for fire damage is property owned by Matilda Blodgett, 45-01-28-00, 341 North Branch Street. The fire was on June 6, 2022 and the home is not habitable. Because this fire was in the prior fiscal year, the breakdown to be abated is \$17.01 for FY 21-22 and \$357.46 for FY 22-23 for a total abatement of \$374.47 plus any necessary interest due to the property owner. Bruce Lee-Clark made the motion to abate as presented, seconded by Mary Morrissey, motion passed unanimously.**

****Cassie presented an email received by Joyce Silvestro late this afternoon from Bridget Kelly, parcel ID 60-50-25-00, 117 Southshire Drive. Ms. Kelly paid her taxes late, overlooking the deadline due to illness. A friend brought payment in on November 14, 2022. Ms. Kelly is requesting abatement of the penalty. The Board discussed the criteria for abatement, which is very specific and limited in statute. After reviewing the statute for abatement and discussion amongst Board members, it was deemed that because the penalty is state law, there is no provision for abating the penalty. Some collection fees and interest can be abated in very certain circumstances, but the penalty cannot be abated. Anne Mook made the motion to take no action because the Board of Abatement does not have authority to abate the penalty, seconded by Anna Swierad, motion passed unanimously.**

****Being her last meeting as a Board member, David Shaffe thanked Anna Swierad for her service to the Board, with many members chiming in appreciative of her service.**

****With no further business, Anna Swierad made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Morrissey, motion passed unanimously.**

****Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cassandra Barbeau".

Cassandra Barbeau
Bennington Town Clerk