

ASSESSOR'S REPORT MAY 2021

Judy Mathiau, Assessor

Robette Bouchard, Clerical Assistant

Agricultural Commission –

- The second newsletter was published and mailed to 52 entities including Winslow farmers, organizations, and taxpayers. See attached.
- Sally Harwood, a Commission member and myself, visited the Hapworth Farm on the Heywood Road for its bi-annual on-site review of land and buildings currently enrolled in the VMFSP (Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program). In addition, we enjoyed a lengthy conversation with Wayne Hapworth, his son Kevin and his brother Lee about their current wood business and how it supplements the income of hay production. We are pleased to announce that the Farm is compliant within the requirements of the Program. A report will be submitted to the Council at a later date.

Field Work – I am halfway to completion of my on-site reviews of new construction. Many of the larger projects will need to be visited and confirmed. Code Officer Adam Bradstreet discovered a brand-new home under construction and directed them to acquire permits. This seems to be happening a lot in the past few years, not typically with new homes, but with interior updates, additions, and outbuildings. Disconcerting to say the least.

Supplemental Assessments – I have issued 9 supplemental assessments during the 2020/2021 fiscal year totaling \$18,100.41 in property tax. Most of the 9 represent penalties associated with the current use programs both farm and tree growth.

Abatements - I have issued 13 property tax abatements totaling \$7,936.39. A taxpayer has 185 days from the commitment date to request and/or receive a tax abatement. The deadline was this past February.

Training –

- I attended a virtual 2-day conference hosted by VISION GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS, which runs our assessment software. The conference covered several training modules on the program including report writing, sketch tools, GIS, utility programming and year end administration. Bette also joined one day of the seminar.
- I also attended a meeting with Maine Assessors that have hydro dams. This meeting was led by our utility consultant and appraiser, Bill van Tuinen and the discussion was centered on the cost of hydro generation and the reduced output. He pointed out that BROOKFIELD, (owner of our Hydro Kennebec Dam), has filed abatement requests on several larger facilities. I have not received an abatement request here in Winslow.