

**WILMINGTON BOARD OF ABATEMENT
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020 AT 5:30PM
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Wilmington Board of Abatement convened at 5:30pm on November 4, 2020, via a remote meeting.

IN ATTENDANCE: A quorum was achieved with 13 out of 18 members present. Justices of the Peace – Elizabeth McEwen, Fred Houston, Linda Green, Rhea Clark; Board of Listers – Diane Schipke, Jerry Osler, Len Chapman; Selectboard – John Gannon, Tom Fitzgerald, Tony Tribuno, Vince Rice; Town Treasurer – Christine Richter; Town Clerk –Therese Lounsbury.

1. CALLED TO ORDER at 5:36pm
2. CHANGES TO AGENDA – No changes.
3. MOTION TO APPROVE Minutes of June 24, 2020 made by Fred Houston, seconded by Rhea Clark. Motion carried.
4. No conflicts of interest were declared.
5. The Board and requestors were sworn in.

6a. The Board heard a request by Mark & Petra Williams related to a house fire in April 2020, and that they have only 25% of their live-able space. Jerry Osler shared that the appraisal now is \$581,000 (\$66,400 land / \$514,600 building) and that the Board of Listers analysis is that there was a 70% loss of square footage. The listers assessment would have been registered April 1, house fire was April 26. The Williams are current with taxes, and working on the re-build. Projected time frame to complete has moved from October to November, but still need roof, plumbing and electrical. Expect that January would be a better estimate of completion. Christine explained that there are two tax years affected, as the fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. Elizabeth shared that a decision would be within 10 days, and would still beat the November 13 deadline for the current tax bill.

6b. The Board heard a request by Joan Starkman for abatement of late penalties on Homestead filing. Joan explained that she thought the filing was complete via on-line, and circumstances were not revealed until the tax bill arrived showing no homestead credit. Christine explained that the original bill was non-homestead, and the new bill is listed as homestead which didn't show a credit, and thus the higher figure. For a primary residence with homestead declaration there is more of an education tax assessment. It was explained that the penalty fee of \$235.42 would have to be addressed by the Selectboard, it was not an item that the BOA could consider. No financial information was shared by the requestor prior to the meeting.

7. The Board entered a Deliberative Session at 6:14pm. Returned to regular session at 6:36pm.
8. MOTION TO ABATE the Williams property tax for 70% loss of the house for the period April 26, 2020 to February 1, 2021. Motion made by John Gannon, seconded by Fred Houston. Motion carried.

MOTION TO NOTIFY the applicant Joan Starkman to have her accountant appear as her agent to present her financial case on abatement within two weeks. Motion made by Tony Tribuno, seconded by Fred Houston. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Vince asked how to relate to the Selectboard the request that Joan Starkman should be making to them – Therese to send note to Joan.

For those on BCA – Elizabeth announced that there is money in the budget to provide a stipend for the extra work on appeals coming out of the reappraisal. Christine has paperwork for those wishing to partake. Fred & Tony shared that they will have recusals during the appeals. Exploring the use of DropBox for sharing

materials from appellants.

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Fred Houston, seconded by Vince Rice. Adjourned at 7:00pm.

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF, THESE MINUTES ARE A TRUE AND OFFICIAL RECORD OF ALL ACTION TAKEN AT THE BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING HELD, NOVEMBER 4, 2020.

MINUTES PREPARED ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 & SUBMITTED TO WEBMASTER ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 AT 2:30PM.

ATTEST: _____ DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2020

Therese M. Lounsbury, Wilmington Town Clerk

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF, THESE MINUTES ARE A TRUE INDICATION OF THE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING HELD, NOVEMBER 4, 2020.

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____