



Board of Abatement

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

Fire Station Meeting Room (47 Bombardier Road)

MINUTES

BOA Members Present: Jon Hughes, Chair; Brenda Steady, Vice Chair & Selectboard Member; Kristin Beers, BCA Clerk; Kevin Endres, JP; Reginald Godin, JP; Christopher Mattos, JP; Amy Maxfield, JP; Dana Maxfield, JP; Leland Morgan, JP; Michael Morgan, JP & Selectboard Member; Wendell Noble, JP; John Palasik, JP; Thomas Rowley, JP; Chris Taylor, Selectboard Member; John Gifford, Town Treasurer

BOA Members Not Present: Charles Barsalow, JP; Steve Burke, JP; Mary Ann Godin, JP; Darren Adams, Selectboard Member; John Fitzgerald, Selectboard Member


Others Present: Mike Thompson, Terry Eckert, David Eckert, Brock Rouse, Nichole Delong, Joseph St. Hilaire, Wendy Wilton

1. Board of Abatement meeting was called to order by Jon Hughes at 6:03 p.m.
2. Jon Hughes led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Jon Hughes welcomed newly appointed Justice of the Peace, Dana Maxfield and spoke in remembrance of Mary Noble, who passed away in November.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Wendell Noble motioned to approve the Board of Abatement Minutes for the October 27, 2021 meeting, with a second by Brenda Steady.
 - b. Motion passed unanimously.
5. John Gifford presented two proposed abatements:
 - a. Abatement request for 0 Duffy Road:
 - i. Wendell Noble moved to abate the 21-22 taxes in the amount of \$232.70 for unusable farm out buildings, noting that these buildings have been removed from future tax bills.
 - ii. Michael Morgan seconded.
 - iii. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Coventry Camper Trailer (formerly 213 Abbey Lane):
 - i. Brenda Steady moved to abate the 20-21 taxes, late penalty and interest for the camper trailer at 213 Abbey Lane, for a total of \$166.11, considering the lack of documentation, amount, and cost for attempting to collect.
 - ii. Amy Maxfield seconded.
 - iii. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Michael Morgan moved to adjourn the Board of Abatement meeting at 6:12 pm, with a second by Leland Morgan. Motion passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Beers*

APPROVED MINUTES:



Jon Hughes, Chair

Date: 6/29/22



Board of Civil Authority

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

(Immediately followed the Board of Abatement Meeting)

Fire Station Meeting Room (47 Bombardier Road)

MINUTES

BCA Members Present: Jon Hughes, Chair; Brenda Steady, Vice Chair & Selectboard Member; Kristin Beers, BCA Clerk; Kevin Endres, JP; Reginald Godin, JP; Christopher Mattos, JP; Amy Maxfield, JP; Dana Maxfield, JP; Leland Morgan, JP; Michael Morgan, JP & Selectboard Member; Wendell Noble, JP; John Palasik, JP; Thomas Rowley, JP; Chris Taylor, Selectboard Member

BCA Members Not Present: Charles Barsalow, JP; Steve Burke, JP; Mary Ann Godin, JP; Darren Adams, Selectboard Member; John Fitzgerald, Selectboard Member

Others Present: Mike Thompson, Terry Eckert, David Eckert, Brock Rouse, Nichole Delong, Joseph St. Hilaire, Wendy Wilton

1. Board of Civil Authority meeting was called to order by Jon Hughes at 6:13 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes:
 - a) Wendell Noble motioned to approve the Board of Civil Authority Minutes for the October 27, 2021 meeting, with a second by Kevin Endres.
 - b) Motion passed unanimously.
3. Prepare for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting election:
 - a) Kristin passed out the Declaration of Health Care Coverage forms that are required annually and a sign-up sheet for election workers.
 - b) Kristin asked the BCA for permission to process absentee ballots early.
 - i) Brenda Steady made a motion to allow election officials to deposit early voter absentee ballots into the vote tabulator preceding the March 1st election, in accordance with the provisions of 17 VSA §4564a, based on volume received. Second by Wendell Noble. Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii) Reginald Godin made a motion to run the early ballots through the tabulator on the Friday before the election (2/25/22) and other days as needed. Second by Mike Morgan. Motion passed unanimously.
 - c) Kristin asked the BCA for permission to hire workers for the upcoming election.
 - i) Michael Morgan made a motion to allow the Town Clerk to hire workers for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting election. Second by Kevin Endres. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Jon Hughes opened discussion about the House District reapportionment revised plans. Local BCA's have until February 15th to respond to the Gov Ops committee.
 - a) Every ten years, the State is required to reapportion voting districts based on updated population data (census).
 - b) The alternate proposal, received on 1/20/22, divides Milton into three 2-member districts, with one district entirely within Milton borders and two small portions of Milton residents grouped with Westford/Essex and Colchester districts.
 - c) Milton's current set-up works. Let's keep status quo. There's a saying, if it isn't broken, don't fix it.
 - d) Reminder to consider neighboring communities and the ripple effect that causes to all the districts. We may not be able to keep status quo.
 - e) Kristin testified to the Gov Ops committee on 2/3/22 via Zoom and said that having two small populations of Milton residents represented by difference communities (Westford/Essex and Colchester) will make those voters feel disenfranchised. Rather than splitting the town into three new districts, would the Gov Ops committee please consider grouping those two smaller portions of Milton voters together? Milton's BCA hasn't met yet, but previously voiced concern about voter confusion and voter confidence in the election process. Having two districts would be less confusing for voters.
 - f) Milton (with a population of 10,723) is not big enough for 3 House seats.
 - g) Let's ask the Gov Ops committee to create Milton's main CHI-10 district, by starting on the East border, keeping Milton intact on the Westford side, and work west toward Grand Isle, pushing the excess Milton voters into a South Hero/Grand Isle district. Please use large natural boundaries and geography, like Interstate-89 and the Lamoille River, etc.
 - h) Lots of agreement and discussion about how Milton voters have much more in common with the Islands, than they do with Westford. West Milton residents share common lakeshore with the Islands, and the Sandbar State Park is located in Milton. Traveling from the interstate, people drive right through Milton to get to the Islands. East Milton residents don't have nearly as much in common with Westford/Essex residents.
 - i) For the past twenty years, West Milton voters have gotten used to sharing a voting district with the Islands. Voters are starting to understand that district. To switch that now, over to the Westford/Essex side, will cause voter confusion, disillusionment, anger at the polls, feelings of disfranchisement, and claims of underrepresentation in Montpelier.
5. Reginald Godin made the motion: The Milton BCA authorizes Kristin to compose a response, asking the Gov Ops committee to create Milton's main CHI-10 district, by starting on the East border, keeping Milton intact on the Westford side, and working west toward Grand Isle, pushing the excess Milton voters into a South Hero/Grand Isle district. Please use large

natural boundaries and geography, like Interstate-89 and the Lamoille River, etc. Milton voters have much more in common with the Islands, than they do with Westford. West Milton residents share common lakeshore with the Islands, and the Sandbar State Park is located in Milton. Traveling from the interstate, people drive right through Milton to get to the Islands. East Milton residents don't have nearly as much in common with Westford/Essex residents. For the past twenty years, West Milton voters have gotten used to sharing a voting district with the Islands. Voters are starting to understand that district. To switch that now, over to the Westford/Essex side, will cause voter confusion, disillusionment, anger at the polls, feelings of disfranchisement, and claims of underrepresentation in Montpelier. Second by Michael Morgan. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion:

- a) Kristin will compose a response letter to the Gov Ops committee and blind copy it to all BCA members for review before submittal.

7. Motion to adjourn was made by Brenda Steady and seconded by Chris Mattos. Motion passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Beers*

APPROVED MINUTES:



Jon Hughes, Chair

Date: 6/28/22