

Minutes of the Meeting of the Norwich Board of Listers 14 September 2015, 9 am, Tracy Hall

Present: Liz Blum (Chair), Cheryl A. Lindberg, Lee Michaelides (Listers); Bill Krajieski (Assessor); Neil Fulton (Town Manager); Jonathan Bynum (Clerk & Scribe); Rosalyn Cook; Yvonne Cook; Suzanne Lupien; Garrett Palm

Blum called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

1. Review and Approval of Agenda

Michaelides **moved** (2nd Lindberg) to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion **passed 3-0**.

2. Public Comments

Garrett Palm asked why Norwich's Homestead tax rate is higher than the Non-Residential. Blum, Lindberg and Fulton provided answers.

3. Approval of Minutes of Lister Meeting of 29 June 2015

Michaelides **moved** (2nd Lindberg) to approve the Minutes of the Lister Meeting of 29 June 2015 as distributed. Motion **passed 3-0**.

4. Correspondence—Garrett Palm, Request for Correction of Minutes of 2015 Lister Grievance Hearings

Palm asserted that he believes he **overpaid** for his property at 15 Bramble Lane, rather than the view attributed to him in the Grievance Hearing Minutes.

After discussion, Lindberg **moved** (2nd Michaelides) to change the Grievance Hearing Minutes to delete the second part of the sentence beginning, "Palm had recently purchased..." Motion **passed 3-0**.

5. Yvonne Cook, Appeal of Penalty for Late-Filing of Homestead Declaration

Yvonne Cook stated that she had filed her Vermont income taxes and Homestead Declaration electronically using the H&R Block software on 9 March, 2015, and submitted a dated printout produced by this filing. She was unaware that there was an issue until she received her tax bill in July at the Non-Residential tax rate. She at that point filed her Homestead Declaration directly through the State website, and was assessed a penalty for late-filing by the Town. A \$50 penalty for late-filing of her income taxes had already been waived by the State.

The Listers felt that Cook needed to ask the State and H&R Block for additional information to show that the Homestead Declaration of 9 March 2015 had been properly filed. Suzanne Lupien and Rosalyn Cook spoke on behalf of Yvonne Cook's integrity and good faith effort to file her Homestead Declaration on time, and felt it would be more expeditious for the Listers to act now.

Lindberg **moved** that the Listers abate Yvonne Cook's penalty for Late-Filing of the 2015 Homestead Declaration. No second. It was agreed that Lupien would assist Cook in obtaining additional verification from the State.

6. Possible Errors & Omissions:

- a. 14-001.000, William Wickner & Hali Wicker Revocable Trust, 1260 Podunk Road**
- b. 08-001.000, Les Mitchel Brook, LLC, 844 Tigertown Road**
- c. 11-102.000, George & Carol Loveland, 32 Butternut Road**
- d. 10-193.000, Thayer Fraser, 256 Turnpike Road**

Krajeski presented possible errors & omissions for Wickner, Les Mitchel Brook, LLC, and Loveland, all stemming from Current Use. Due to continuing delays in State submission of Current Use information to the Office, the Use Values for Wickner and Les Mitchel Brook, LLC had been manually calculated. When the State's numbers were finally received, the application of the CLA and rounding had produced slightly different numbers. For Loveland, the State had only recently informed the Office of an enrolled farm building. Michaelides **moved** (2nd Lindberg) to approve Errors & Omissions a, b & c on the agenda for submission to the Selectboard. Motion **passed 3-0**.

The Fraser property had been purchased after 1 April 2015 by Christopher & Kendall Lee for less than the assessed value. NEMC had never been granted an interior inspection of the property at the time the 2015 Grand List was finalized, but the new owners allowed an inspection in July after the appeal period had ended. The Listers felt that this did not qualify under the Errors & Omissions statute, 32 VSA 4261. Michaelides **moved** (2nd Lindberg) not to act on item d, as it was not an Error or Omission. Motion **passed 3-0**.

7. Approval of Reappraisal Documentation for Submission to the State

Blum **moved** (2nd Michaelides) to approve the reappraisal form for submission to the State of Vermont. Motion **passed 3-0**.

8. Signing of Form PVR 4261—E&O Certificate—Classification Change Only (for late filing or withdrawal of a homestead declaration)

No motion. The Listers were to sign.

9. Signing of Form PVR 4155.08—Certificate—No Appeal or Suit Pending

No motion. The Listers were to sign, and the Selectboard asked to sign at their meeting.

10. Update on Townwide Reappraisal Progress

Krajeski updated the Listers on his plan to inspect the downtown area in an intensive fashion this fall. Krajeski agreed to provide Lindberg with a list of properties which have never had an interior inspection as part of next spring's reappraisal activities.

11. 2015 BCA decisions, and appeals if any

There were 2 BCA appeals in 2015, one of which has appealed to the State Hearing Officer.

12. Norah Lake Settlement and State Appraiser decisions from past years

Lindberg asked whether the Norah Lake settlement was binding on the Town for 2016. It was not.

13. Any Other Business

After some discussion of the Townwide reappraisal, Lindberg stated that the Office needed to do more to promote the fact that more detailed cards are available than those available online. These may be requested from the Clerk, or printed at the public access machine in the Office during business hours. Lindberg also suggested that the Office make use of the Norwich Listserv to communicate the schedule for the inspections of downtown properties this fall.

Lindberg stated that she would like the Listers to meet monthly. Michaelides and Blum stated that they wished to meet as needed. Lindberg also asked that, in future, the other Listers be consulted in advance as to the scheduling of meetings.

Michaelides then **moved** (2nd Blum) for adjournment. Motion **passed 3-0**. Meeting adjourned at 10:42 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Blum

Chair, Norwich Board of Listers