

Minutes of the Meeting of the Norwich Board of Listers 1 August 2016, 5 pm, Tracy Hall

Present: Cheryl A. Lindberg (Chair), Liz Blum, Lee Michaelides (Listers); Jonathan Bynum (Clerk & Scribe)

Also present: Linda Cook, Kyler Hella

Lindberg opened the meeting at 5:03 pm.

1. Review and Approval of Agenda

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

2. Public Comments

Lindberg briefly explained the functions of the Board of Listers to Hella.

3. Approval of Minutes of Lister Deliberative Session of 13 & 14 June 2016 and Lister Meeting of 16 June 2016

Blum **moved** (2nd Michaelides) to approve the minutes of the Lister Deliberative Session of 13 & 14 June 2016 as distributed. Motion **passed 3-0**.

Blum **moved** (2nd Michaelides) to approve the minutes of the Lister Meeting of 16 June 2016 as distributed. Motion **passed 3-0**.

4. Possible Errors & Omissions: (a) 15-020.000, Andrew & Tiffany Pache, 256 Dutton Hill Road

The Paches submitted paperwork from the State confirming that Mr. Pache is eligible to receive the Veterans' exemption in 2016. The Paches had missed the May 1st deadline for applying for this exemption, as they were unaware of it until the Listers informed them during the grievance process. There was discussion of whether the Errors & Omissions statute, 32 VSA §4261, allows the Listers to request that the Selectboard make such a change. Michaelides **moved** (2nd Blum) to present to the Selectboard as an Error & Omission the confirmation of eligibility for the Veterans' Exemption of Andrew Pache. Motion **passed 3-0**.

5. Errors & Omissions—Classification Change Only (PV&R Form 4261)

Michaelides **moved** (2nd Blum) to adopt Form 4261 as distributed. Motion **passed 3-0**.

6. Lister Page on Town Website and Lister References in Town Information

Lindberg feels that the Listers are largely missing from the Town website. The webpage is listed as "Assessor/Listers" under "Departments," unlike other elected Boards which have their own webpage under "Boards & Committees." This same tendency occurs in other Town materials, such as the Town Report. Blum **moved** (2nd Michaelides) to request that the Lister page be displayed as "Lister/Assessor" under "Boards" on the Town website effective immediately and to have other Town documents changed to "Lister/Assessor." Motion **passed 3-0**.

7. Recap of 2016 Townwide reappraisal and grievance processes

Lindberg found the process for the 2016 reappraisal different from the 2013 reappraisal, in that in her view NEMC made more effort to get into homes in 2013 and made more effort to keep the Listers in the loop. She stated that NEMC showed little interest in inspecting properties not inspected during this cycle during the grievance process. The final inspection sheet submitted by NEMC shows a 45.68% entry rate during this cycle. It is also her understanding that exempt properties were not included in the process, which she does not agree with. Going forward, she feels that there needs to be more effort to keep the Listers informed, rather than letting them know about property assessment changes after the fact.

Blum pointed out that technically this was a statistical update, and that a large majority of homes have had interior inspections since 2011. Blum continued that the primary interest this time was in gaining inspections of properties not already seen. Lindberg referred to the contract with NEMC stating that it reads NEMC will inspect 1/3 of the Town's properties each year during the three year period. Lindberg feels that frequent reentry is important. Lindberg disagreed with Blum in that she understood that the Town did a townwide reappraisal, not a statistical update. Lindberg would like to begin this next 3-year townwide reappraisal on a new basis, keeping in touch with NEMC and its plan for the process this next time around. Michaelides agreed that the Office could be more aggressive about making inspection appointments.

Lindberg felt good for the most part about the grievance process, but she was concerned about the practice of increasing a whole neighborhood based on one or a few high sales.

It was agreed to postpone this discussion until the next meeting.

8. Review of Homestead Non-Filer List for the State

The Listers reviewed the list, marking properties for which a Homestead perhaps should have been filed but was not, and instructed the Clerk to submit this information to the State for follow-up.

The date of the next meeting was tentatively set for 22 September 2016 at noon.

Lindberg then **moved** (2nd Blum) for adjournment. Motion **passed 3-0**. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Lindberg
Chair, Norwich Board of Listers