

Norwich Board of Listers
Regular Meeting – 3:00 pm
Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Present: Cheryl A. Lindberg and Pamela T. Smith, Listers; Contract Assessor Spencer Potter; Omer Trajman; Priscilla & Jonathan Vincent

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm

2. Review and approval of agenda – discussion/action

Lindberg asked to move agenda item 5 to 8. Motion by Smith to approve the agenda as amended (2nd Lindberg). Unanimous.

3. Public Comments & Correspondence –

No public comments. Lindberg noted that we have received a request for tax exempt status that has been placed on the agenda as item 6.

4. Final 2022 Grand List/E&O Forms

The Listers filed the year-end reports with the Town Clerk recording all Homestead Declaration changes for the 2022 Grand List. In addition, a report showing all Errors & Omissions (E&O) was filed with the Town Clerk. This form was signed by the Listers and must be signed by all members of the Selectboard. Lindberg will follow up with the Town Clerk on the status of signatures. The Assessor has filed the final Form 411 with the State. The 2022 Grand List is now completed.

5. Request for Tax Exemption Determination

Lindberg stated that the Listers have received the FORM PVR-317 Vermont Property Tax Public Pious or Charitable Exemption from the Norwich Farm Foundation (NFF) located at 701 Turnpike Rd. Omer Trajman, Treasurer of the NFF, gave a brief explanation of the request. The Assessor expressed his concern that the entire property is now leased to an entity that is not an approved 501(c)(3). Smith expressed concern that the lease does not require the tenant to carry out the mission of the NFF, which includes community agricultural education programs, and provide local food security and education on sustainable dairy. Lindberg expressed concerns that there is limited access to certain structures on the property, which is not in compliance with the statutory requirement. Trajman stated NFF's willingness to make changes to the lease and any other changes needed to comply with the requirements of state statute. Trajman also stated that NFF is gathering signatures on a petition to put an article on the March ballot to request tax-exempt status from the voters. The Listers will send the Form PVR-317 to our District Advisor to request comment on this request.

6. Assessor monthly report and invoice – discussion/action

The Assessor's report for December 2022 shows several permit inspections were conducted as well as work on Current Use. Motion by Lindberg to accept the assessor's report dated January 1, 2023 and approve Invoice #1380 dated January 1, 2023 in the amount of \$2,32.19 (2nd Smith). Unanimous.

7. Discuss Reappraisal planning with KRT – review/discussion

The Listers spoke with Rob Tozier of KRT regarding planning for the upcoming reappraisal. KRT will produce public relations materials that will be submitted to the Listers in the near future. This information will reside on the KRT website. The Listers will also place information on the Norwich Town website and post information on the Norwich Listserv. Lindberg will make an announcement at the upcoming Town Meeting that KRT will hold a public forum in March to present a PowerPoint presentation and hold a Q&A session with Norwich residents.

8. Approval of Draft Minutes of December 14, 2022 – discussion action

Motion by Lindberg to approve the draft minutes of December 14, 2022 (2nd Smith). Unanimous.

9. FY24 Budget Request – review/discussion

The Listers were asked by the Interim Town Manager to look for any budget cuts they would recommend to the Selectboard for the FY24 budget. The Listers resubmitted their original budget request, which was lower than the FY23 budget request and stated that they are steadfast in their request for the funds needed in FY24.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting will be held on February 8, 2023 at 3:00pm.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Smith to adjourn at 4:52pm (2nd Lindberg). Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Lindberg, Chair
Board of Listers

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