

Norwich Board of Abatement Meeting
December 3, 2024
DRAFT MINUTES

Board of Abatement members present: Cheryl Lindberg (Chair), Pam Smith (Vice-Chair), Lily Trajman (Clerk), Marcia Calloway, Ernie Ciccotelli (online), Carolyn Clinton (online), Fran DeGasta, Linda Gray (online), Corlan Johnson, Dave Krimmel, Mary Layton (online) Suzanne Leiter, Emily Scherer.

Other attendees: Joe Holland, representative for Clifford Properties

Called to order at 7:00pm by Lindberg.

1. Approval of minutes:
 - a. 5/15/24 minutes: Trajman noted that the date at the bottom of the minutes is wrong; it says 2023 and should be 2024. Smith moved and Krimmel seconded approval of the minutes with the corrected date.
 - Yes – Calloway, Clinton, DeGasta, Gray, Krimmel, Leiter, Lindberg, Scherer, Smith, Trajman
 - No – none
 - Abstain – Ciccotelli, Johnson, Layton
2. Smith moved and Krimmel seconded approval of the agenda – unanimous.
3. Clifford Properties abatement request:
 - a. Lindberg stated that the abatement request was for the property at 112 US Route 5 S, parcel ID is 15-062.000. The property is owned by Clifford Properties LLC, and Joe Holland is their representative.
 - Board members introduced themselves.
 - Lindberg administered the witness oath.
 - b. Lindberg asked Holland to give the statutory reason for abatement and present his case.
 - Holland stated that he tried to change the mailing address for Clifford Properties in 2018; the request was correctly handwritten into the Clerk's copy of the Grand List as 23 Lyme Rd, Hanover, but it was subsequently entered as 73 Lyme Rd.
 - Between 2019 and 2023, Clifford Properties received tax bills with the correct address written in by parties unknown. This year's tax bill, however, was not delivered.
 - Holland is seeking a refund of the penalties and interest stemming from the late payment of this tax bill, approximately \$2,500.
 - c. Lindberg asked for questions from the Board:
 - Did Holland notice when the tax bill did not arrive this year? No, he manages 40 properties and did not notice the absence of one bill.
 - Why didn't Holland correct the address? He never saw a reason to, since the mail continued to arrive; he assumed someone – either in

Norwich or at the PO – was correcting the address and had no reason to believe this would change.

- How long was the address correct in the system? 1964 to 2018. An address change request was mailed to the Town, not the Listers.
 - Were delinquent tax notices received? Yes, again with the address hand corrected to 23 Lyme Rd.
- d. Lindberg noted that the property type is incorrectly listed as residential on the abatement application; in reality the property is identified as commercial in the Grand List.
4. Smith moved and Johnson seconded closing the hearing and entering deliberative session at 7:28pm.
 5. Adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lily Trajman

Clerk, Board of Abatement.

12/4/2024