

Wallingford Board of Abatement
Minutes
June 26, 2024

Board Members Present: Justice of the Peace Maureen Duchesne, Kate Goetz, Stanley Seward, Gary Fredette, and Nan Dubin; Selectboard member Carolyn Behrendt, Justin Jankus and Rob Barker, and Town Clerk & Treasurer Julie Sharon

Others Present: Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer Jill Teer

Board Members Absent: Wendy Savery, Sandy Eddy, Tony Petrossi, Curtis Lidstone, Ken Welch, and Selectboard members Mark Tessier and Kathy Luzader

Town Clerk J. Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and conducted nominations for chair. G. Fredette nominated N. Dubin as chair and R. Barker seconded the nomination. N. Dubin nominated G. Fredette as chair and C. Behrendt seconded the nomination. G. Fredette declined the nomination. There were no other nominations. The nomination of N. Dubin as chair was approved (8-0). N. Dubin did not vote. N. Dubin conducted nominations for vice chair. R. Barker nominated G. Fredette and J. Jankus seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The nomination of G. Fredette as vice chair was approved (8-0). G. Fredette did not vote.

No additions or deletions were made to the agenda.

M. Duchesne moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2023 and was seconded by C. Behrendt. The minutes were approved. Motion passed (8-0) with J. Jankus abstaining.

Kristine Perry, #0790155, Span #681-216-10375; no statutory criteria was given.

The hearing opened at 6:35 p.m. Ms. Perry was not present for the abatement hearing. Chair Dubin read Ms. Perry's email (attached) addressed to the former Vermont Secretary of State as follows:

As per attached, my property in Wallingford was taxed, in error, for 3.97 acres plus residence since it was consolidated into one property from three in 2008. The individual properties were lot 21 at 1.47 acres, lot 8 at 1.12 acres, and lot 9 at 1.13 acres. These combined add up to 3.72 acres. However, I have been taxed for 3.97 acres for parcel 0790155 as per attached. This is now corrected on the tax bill in Wallingford. It has been 16 years that the taxes were based on an incorrect value. I am requesting this be reviewed and consideration be addressed for a tax rebate to me.

The hearing closed at 6:37 p.m.

Estate of Amy Gilbert, #0460202, Span #681-216-10985; 24 V.S.A. §1535(a)(3) taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees.

The hearing opened at 6:38 p.m. Estate Administrator Chris Gilbert was not present for the abatement hearing. Chair Dubin read Mr. Gilbert's letter (attached) as follows:

This is a request for the abatement of interest and collection fees on the property taxes which were due April 15, 2024 for 202 Van Wyck Road, Parcel ID #0460202. The property owner, Amy Gilbert, died on March 31, 2024. I am her brother and the executor of her estate.

This request is made pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1535(a)(3) taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay. I was unable to make the tax payment on time because I did not have access to Amy's funds so soon after her death. The officiating probate court in New Jersey imposed a mandatory waiting period before filing her estate, experienced scheduling delays due to backlog, and took time to create the letters testamentary. Once my executor powers were conferred, I utilized her funds to pay the property tax.

The hearing closed at 6:40 p.m.

The Board went into deliberative session at 6:40 p.m. and came out at 6:48 p.m.

Clerk J. Sharon will write the decisions for the Chair's signature.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m. on a motion made by C. Behrendt and seconded by N. Dubin. The motion passed unanimously.

Julie M. Sharon, Town Clerk