

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING - DRAFT
Held on April 28, 2025

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order in person by Board Chair Carol Dawes at 5:07 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Barre, VT. In attendance in person were: Rosemary Averill, Jeff Bergeron, Carolyn Dawes, Amanda Gustin, Tom Kelly, E. John LePage, Sonya Spaulding, Samn Stockwell, Tess Taylor, Sharon Toborg, Teddy Waszazak, and City Clerk/Treasurer Cheryl Metivier

Members absent: Patti Bisson, Emel Cambel, Sarah Helman, Michael Deering, Michael Boutin, Thom Kelly, Thom Lauzon, Chrysta Murray, Tabitha Tant, Assessors.

The Board approved the (Amended) minutes of the April 21, 2025 meeting on motion of Board Member Samn Stockwell, seconded by Board Member Teddy Waszazak. **Motion carried.**

Chair Dawes opened the abatement hearings, and administered the oath to all requesters present.

- **BOA #2025-09: Tobias Bernier, 527 N. Main St. Parcel #1095-0527.0000**
Tobias Bernier requested abatements for the period of July 10 2023 to present for loss of occupancy, quality of life during later occupancy and a portion of building use. The flood waters ruin all heating and electrical work in basement and 1st floor of living space. Regaining kitchen and heating just recently. Substantial out of pocket expenses for repairs. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member S. Toborg, seconded by Board Member S. Stockwell. **Motion carried.**
- **BOA #2025-10: Vermont Granite Museum, 56 Depot Sq. Parcel #0465-0056.0000.**
Bob Pope testified the non-profit tax rate failed to be completed to the property which would have provide relief. The flooding damage caused the historic building to be inhabitable, it is basically a ruined shell. Hoping to use the abatement process to rectify the loss. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member T. Taylor, seconded by Board Member T. Waszazak. **Motion carried.**
- **BOA #2025-11: E. John LePage, 16 Willey St., Parcel #1585-0016.0000**
Due to the BoA members personal interest and lack of a quorum without his presents, the abatement hearing was deferred unanimously for another date.
- **BOA #2025-12: A. Giraud, 41 Jacques St. Parcel #0860-0041.0000.**
A. Giraud plead for the abatement of penalties and interest on unpaid taxes due to the lack of information or distribution of tax bill at the time of purchase or thereafter. A sizeable amount of taxes due were predetermined to purchase (based on past commercial use) and was budgeted for, however the timeliness of payments caused penalties and interest to build. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member S. Stockwell, seconded by Board Member S. Toborg. **Motion carried.**
- **BOA #2025-13: Pam Hull, 5 Corti St., Parcel #0428-0005.0000.** No representation was present. Due to the lack of information on the Appellants side and/or Assessors, the hearing was deferred to another time. With the expectation of the completion of a damage survey and the presence of an Assessor.
- **BOA #2025-14: M & S Properties LLC, 372 N. Main St. Parcel #1095-0372.0000.** Steve Manning represented the property. Manning purchased the property shortly before the July 2024 flood with the intensions of rehabilitating and renting the (5) units. Soon after, the flooding caused the construction to be put on hold. Steve would like the Board to abate the taxes due to the flood damage hoping to begin rehabilitation in May 2025. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member J. Bergeron, seconded by Board Member S. Stockwell **Motion carried.**
- **BOA #2025-15: Coralee Wolters, 113 Hill St. Parcel #0790-0113.0000.** No one was present to represent the Appellant or property. The Appellant requested an abatement of taxes during the (3) months of time her home was inhabitable due to a fire in July 2024. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member S. Stockwell, seconded by Board Member A. Gustin **Motion carried.**

To be approved at next BoA meeting

The Board went into deliberative session on motion of Board Member T. Taylor, seconded by Board Member S. Toborg, **Motion carried.**

The Board came out of deliberative session at 6:20 PM on motion of Board Member A. Gustin, seconded by Board Member T. Waszazak. **Motion carried.**

The following decisions were made in deliberative session, and written decisions will be sent to the requesters within 15 days, as required by statute:

- **BOA #2025-09: Tobias Bernier, 527 N. Main St. Parcel #1095-0527.0000**
The Board determined full abatement for value of the building only for the period of July 10 2023 to March 15th 2024 based on lack of occupancy, no kitchen or heating during periods of until March 2024.
- **BOA #2025-10: Vermont Granite Museum, 56 Depot Sq. Parcel #0465-0056.0000.**
The Board determined to abate the taxes (building value only) for TY23-24.
- **BOA #2025-11: E. John LePage, 16 Willey St., Parcel #1585-0016.0000**
Due to the BoA Members personal interest and lack of a quorum without his presents, the abatement hearing was deferred unanimously for another date.
- **BOA #2025-12: A. Giraud, 41 Jacques St. Parcel #0860-0041.0000.**
The Board agreed to abate the full penalties and interest.
- **BOA #2025-13: Pam Hull, 5 Corti St.. Parcel #0428-0005.0000.** No representation was present. Due to the lack of information on the Appellants side and/or Assessors, the hearing was deferred to another time. With the expectation of the completion of a damage survey and the presence of an Assessor.
- **BOA #2025-14: M & S Properties LLC, 372 N. Main St. Parcel #1095-0372.0000.** Upon discussion of the Board it was determined the decision would be deferred to a time when the input from the Assessor and an inspection of the property could give more insight to possibly additional damage done from the July 2024 flooding
- **BOA #2025-15: Coralee Wolters, 113 Hill St. Parcel #0790-0113.0000.** The request to abate taxes during the time of she could not occupy the property due to fire was granted (building value only.)

The meeting recessed at 6:23 PM **All in agreement.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, Clerk/Treasurer