

# TOWN OF HIGHGATE

## Board of Abatement

Thursday, December 6, 2018 @ 5:30pm

*NOTE: All actions taken are unanimous unless otherwise stated.*

### A. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by John Ferland @ 5:30pm.

Present for this meeting were:

Board of Abatement Members: Wendi Dusablon; Clarence Miller; John Ferland; Aimee Reynolds; Peter St. Germain; Shelley Laroche; Dennis Nolan; Claude Chevalier; Patty Rainville; Sharon Bousquet

### B. Abatement Hearings

**Mercell Richard**  
**63 Virginia Lane**  
**Parcel # 0030000100**

Mr. Richard was not present. We received a letter from Nadine Scibek, attorney for the ANDCO Mobile Home Park, back in April of this year. The letter was notifying us that Mr. Richard's trailer was abandoned and uninhabitable. Judge Rainville also issued a ruling on this, which was also forwarded to the town. Aimee Reynolds, lister, stated that the trailer has been partially removed, there is an addition portion still there and a shed valued at very little. A dumpster is still on site, so they have not finished the cleanup yet. Mr. Richard owned his own mobile home, but the land is owned by the ANDCO Mobile Home Cooperative and those taxes are paid separately. As of today, the total amount due and under consideration for abatement is \$343.52, some of which is from 2017. We cannot locate Mr. Richard and have no forwarding address info for him. The president and secretary of the MH park were notified of this meeting in an attempt to reach Mr. Richard as well. Motion by Claude Chevalier to **abate the full amount of \$343.52** based on criteria #5 (taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year) in the About Abatement Publication. The motion was seconded by Clarence Miller – **APPROVED**. It was asked how we make up for funds that are abated. Shelley explained that it is all worked into the tax calculation for the following cycle based on anything the board decided to abate.

**Town of Highgate (formerly Elwood)**  
**293 Lamkin Street**  
**Parcel # 0020005051**

This was a health order enforced through the courts and the process took several years. The former owners have relocated to the State of Florida. The process has been finalized and the town now owns the property, as ordered by the court. Almost \$40,000.00 was put into this process between cleanup fees and legal expenses. The mobile home was destroyed and removed from the property. There were also other health issues on the parcel that required attention and funding. The total amount due as of today is \$4,829.25 and covers 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Shelley originally tried to get the taxes paid but once it became a legal process and they were made to leave the property, the town had to wait this out until now. Our attorney has advised Shelley to bring this before the board of abatement for a decision. Motion by Claude Chevalier to **abate the full amount of \$4,829.25** based on criteria #5 (taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year) in the About Abatement Publication. The motion was seconded by Patty Rainville – **APPROVED**.

**Andrew & Christine Lane**  
**698 Country Club Road**  
**Parcel # 0002700231**

The applicants live in New Hampshire and were not present. Christine Lane called when she received the notice that their taxes had gone delinquent. Bills were mailed to Highgate taxpayers in mid-September. Mrs. Lane received the bill but explained in her letter to the town that for years they escrowed their taxes but because they

paid off their mortgage they now have to pay the town directly. It was an oversight on their part. The town received payment on Nov. 19, 2018 (due date was Nov. 1, 2018 by 5pm), which was short \$453.44, the amount of the penalty. Mrs. Lane is asking the town to consider abating the amount of the penalty because she paid her taxes on time for many years. Shelley did explain the criteria for an abatement to her over the phone but it is the tax payers right to send a letter and ask for consideration if they so wish. The amount due as of today is \$457.60 because another month of interest has been added. Motion by Claude Chevalier to **deny** this request, as it does not meet any of the criteria in the About Abatement Publication. The motion was seconded by Sharon Bousquet – **APPROVED**.

**Karla Johnson / Karen Johnson**  
**3755 Lime Kiln Point**  
**Parcel # 0002700231**

The applicants live in California and were not present. Karla Johnson called when she received the notice that their taxes had gone delinquent. She stated that she mailed her check earlier than normal from California and that she has never had issues in the past with her payment arriving on time. If the payment was sent, it was lost in the mail. Shelley explained the criteria for abatement to Ms. Johnson over the phone. A new check was sent and received on Nov. 19, 2018 (due date was Nov. 1, 2018 by 5pm) to pay the entire balance in full, there is currently a \$0.00 balance. However, Ms. Johnson has asked in her letter that we review this case, noting their previous history of always paying on time. A copy of the previous payment they sent (dated Oct. 18, 2018) was also provided to us. To date, this check has not been received by the town or cleared Ms. Johnson's account. The amount of the penalty and interest Ms. Johnson is seeking abatement and reimbursement for is \$942.68. It was highly recommended to Ms. Johnson to send her payment requiring a signature in the future. Motion by Claude Chevalier to **deny** this request, as it does not meet any of the criteria in the About Abatement Publication. The motion was seconded by Sharon Bousquet – **APPROVED**.

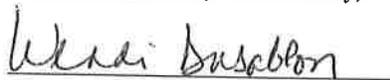
**C. Misc.**

Sharon let everyone know that there will be a potluck holiday dinner for town employees, volunteers and all board and committee members here on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. Please bring a dish and beverages to share. Spouses and significant others are welcome as well.

**D. Adjournment**

Motion by Clarence Miller to adjourn the meeting @ 5:55pm. The motion was seconded by Claude Chevalier – **APPROVED**.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,



Wendi Dusablon  
Town Clerk  
December 7, 2018