

To be approved at next BoA meeting

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING
Held on April 11, 2024

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order in person by Board Chair Tabitha Tant at 5:23 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Barre, VT. In attendance in person were: Tom Kelly, Thom Lauzon, Tim Boltin, Jake Hemmerick, Peter Anthony, Michael Deering, Michael Boutin, Assessor Larry Martin, and City Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes.

Members absent: Ivana Argenti, Rosemary Averill, Patti Bisson, Emel Cambel, Amanda Gustin, Karen Lauzon, Lisa Liotta, Brian Parker, Haley Pero, Samn Stockwell, Tess Taylor, William Toborg, and Teddy Waszazak.

The Board approved the minutes of the March 30, 2024 meeting on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Anthony. **Motion carried.**

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

- **BOA #2024-70: Gary & Diane Hall, 21 Vine St. Parcel #1490-0021.0000.**
Kristin Hall appeared as representative for the property. Ms. Hall said flood waters filled the basement and rose up 21 inches on the first floor. The property has been gutted, there are no utilities, and water/sewer service has been disconnected. The property is uninhabitable and unrepairable. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Deering. **Motion carried.**
- **BOA #2024-71: Philip Ketcham, 435 N. Main St. Parcel #1095-0435.0000.**
Mr. Ketcham did not appear for the hearings. There was no discussion by the Board. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Deering. **Motion carried.**
- **BOA #2024-12: Lescha Carpenter, 31 Maple Ave. Parcel #0995-0031.0000.**
Lescha Carpenter referred to her application and supporting materials, which stated the building was uninhabited at the time of the flood, as she was rehabilitating the property. The property was rendered unlivable by the flood, with all mechanical systems impacted. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Deering. **Motion carried.**
- **BOA #2024-72: Kimberly Campbell estate, 3 Third St. Parcel #1420-0003.0000.**
Eric Morse appeared as representative for Ms. Campbell's estate. Mr. Morse said the property was heavily damaged. All utilities were destroyed and the building is uninhabitable. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Anthony. **Motion carried.**
- **BOA #2024-73: Lyle Remick, 14 Elmore St. Parcel #0535-0014.0000.**
Lyle Remick said the property was heavily impacted by the flooding. Mr. Remick said the tenants in the 4-unit building won't move, and he is concerned about the stability of the building. All heating systems had to be replaced, however, the main support beam is compromised. Two units are now empty, and he is meeting with Section 8 Housing and the City building inspector next week in the hopes of getting at least one other apartment unit deemed uninhabitable due to structural instability and mold. Before the flood he was collecting \$4,500/month in rents, and he is now collecting \$1,800/month, which isn't enough to cover costs. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Anthony. **Motion carried.**

The Board went into deliberative session at 5:43 PM on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Anthony. **Motion carried.**

The Board came out of deliberative session at 5:55 PM on motion of Board Member Meering, seconded by Board Member T. Lauzon. **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:

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- **BOA #2024-70: Gary & Diane Hall, 21 Vine St. Parcel #1490-0021.0000.**
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on 100% of the building's assessed value from the date of the flood through June 30, 2024. The Board's decision is based on the uninhabitability of the property, and the low possibility of restoring the property.
- **BOA #2024-71: Philip Ketcham, 435 N. Main St. Parcel #1095-0435.0000.**
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on 100% of the building's assessed value from the date of the flood for a period of 30 days, representing the period of time Mr. Ketcham's application stated the property was uninhabitable.
- **BOA #2024-12: Lescha Carpenter, 31 Maple Ave. Parcel #0995-0031.0000.**
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on 100% of the building's assessed value from the date of the flood through June 30, 2024. The Board's decision is based on the uninhabitability of the property.
- **BOA #2024-72: Kimberly Campbell estate, 3 Third St. Parcel #1420-0003.0000.**
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on 100% of the building's assessed value from the date of the flood through June 30, 2024. The Board's decision is based on the uninhabitability of the property, and the low possibility of restoring the property.
- **BOA #2024-73: Lyle Remick, 14 Elmore St. Parcel #0535-0014.0000.**
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on 60% of the building's assessed value from the date of the flood through March 31, 2024. This represents the percentage of lost rent as testified by Mr. Remick.

Clerk Dawes said the cut-off date for the state's education tax refund program is Monday, April 15th, so all eligible hearings conducted through today will be submitted for reimbursement. There is a small list of remaining requests which will be taken up after the May 14th annual meeting elections.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM on motion of Board Member Anthony, seconded by Board Member T. Lauzon.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, Clerk/Treasurer