

To be approved at next BoA meeting

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING
Held on November 7, 2023

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order in person and on video platform by Board Chair Tabitha Tant at 5:15 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Barre, VT. In attendance in person or virtually were: Peter Anthony, Thom Lauzon, Karen Lauzon, Teddy Waszazak, Amanda Gustin, Tess Taylor, Emel Cambel, Ivana Argenti, Hailey Pero, Michael Deering, Samn Stockwell, Interim Assessor Janet Shatney, and City Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes.

Members absent: Rosemary Averill, Patti Bisson, Tim Boltin, Michael Boutin, Jake Hemmerick, Tom Kelly, Lisa Liotta, Brian Parker, and William Toborg.

The Board approved the minutes of the September 27, 2023 and October 25, 2023 meetings on motion of Board Member Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Taylor. **Motion carried.**

The Clerk reminded BOA members to sign the oath sheet for all FY2023-2024 hearings.

Chair Tant opened the abatement hearings. Clerk Dawes reviewed her spreadsheet with information of the six properties being considered this evening for abatement. The Clerk noted the process is being streamlined due to the high number of abatement requests following the July flooding. The Clerk noted her recommendations on the spreadsheet. There was brief discussion among the BOA members and those appellants in attendance. Hearing no additional questions or comments, Chair Tant closed the hearings.

Board Member T. Lauzon noted he and Board Member K. Lauzon will be recused from any action related to 16 Prospect Street due to conflict of interest.

Board T. Lauzon asked that the spreadsheet be entered into the City records, and he made the motion to approve the abatements as recommended by the Clerk for the following properties, seconded by Board Member Anthony:

- **BOA 2024-02: Douglas & Rhoda Mason, 5 Portland Street. Parcel #1215-0005.0000.**
Property was destroyed by a landslide during the July flooding. The building has been demolished, and it is unlikely the lot will be buildable again in the future. The Clerk recommended abatement of municipal and education taxes for both the buildings and land from July 11, 2023 through the rest of FY24.
- **BOA 2024-08: Mark Christie, 25 Oswald Street. Parcel #1125-0025.0000.**
Property was destroyed by a landslide during the July flooding. The building was pushed off its foundation, and it is unlikely the lot will be buildable again in the future. The Clerk recommended abatement of municipal and education taxes for both the buildings and the land from July 11, 2023 through the rest of FY24.
- **BOA 2024-14: Brandy Lussier, 36 Pike Street. Parcel #1185-0036.0000.**
The house has been deemed uninhabitable due to threat of landslide behind the property. The Clerk recommended abatement of municipal and education taxes for both the buildings and land from July 11, 2023 through the rest of FY24.
- **BOA 2024-15: Alexander Raeburn, 44 Pike Street. Parcel #1184-0044.0000.**
The house has been deemed uninhabitable due to the threat of landslide behind the property. The Clerk recommended abatement of municipal and education taxes for both the buildings and land from July 11, 2023 through the rest of FY24.
- **BOA 2024-27: Justin & Heather Blake, 789 N. Main Street. Parcel #1095-0789.0000.**
The house was heavily damaged during the flooding by a culvert running under the structure. The house is uninhabitable, however, the lot is deemed usable for future development. The Clerk recommended abatement of municipal and education taxes for the building from July 11, 2023 through the rest of FY24.

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Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Board Member Stockwell made the motion to approve the abatement for 16 Prospect Street as recommended by the City Clerk, seconded by Board Member Deering.

- **BOA 2024-04: 16 Prospect Street LLC, 16 Prospect Street. Parcel #1230-0016.0000.**
The building was destroyed by fire on April 6, 2023. The remains of the building have been demolished. The lot is available for future development, and remains taxable. The Clerk recommended abatement of municipal and education taxes for the building from the date of the fire through FY24.

Motion carried with all members voting in favor, and Board Members T. Lauzon and K. Lauzon recused.

Clerk Dawes noted the decisions of the Board of Abatement will be mailed to the property owners within 15 days, as per statute.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Waszazak. **Motion carried.**

This meeting was recorded on the video platform.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, Clerk/Treasurer