

**BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY
&
BOARD OF ABATEMENT
September 9, 2021
Draft Minutes**

Present:	Caroline Brown	Martha Heath
	Bill Cleary	Lee McClenny
	Lynn Bursell	Becky Roy
	Nanette Rogers	Greg Barrows
	Trish Indoe	Marge McIntosh
Guests:	Heidi Coppola	

The Board of Civil Authority and Board of Abatement met on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:05 p.m. in person and via Zoom.

Martha Heath nominated Bill Cleary as Chair, seconded by Becky Roy. Motion passed: 10-0.

ROBERT & HEIDI COPPOLA – ABATEMENT REQUEST

Heidi Coppola was present to discuss her request to abate property taxes on her home that was destroyed in a fire on August 10, 2020. The fire occurred at night. The Coppolas were out of town. A passerby saw the flames and called 911. By the time the fire department responded the house was fully engulfed and beyond saving, which resulted in a total loss. The Coppolas were not aware of the abatement process until the delinquent tax collector contacted them in May 2021.

The Coppolas own a 64 acre parcel, which until the fire, had a single family dwelling. The assessment of the house is \$137,000. The house was removed from the Grand List for 2021.

Heidi was advised that a written decision will be sent to her.

MINUTES

Greg Barrows made a motion to approve the February 11, 2021 minutes as written, seconded by Lee McClenny. Motion passed: 10-0.

Caroline Brown made a motion to approve the February 27, 2021 minutes as written, seconded by Lee McClenny. Motion passed: 7-0.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND CHALLENGES TO CHECKLIST

The Town Clerk supplied a list for the Board to review of additions and deletions.

Additions

Martha Heath made a motion to approve the additions as presented (see attached list), seconded by Becky Roy. Motion passed: 7-0.

Deletions

Martha Heath made a motion to approve the deletions as presented (see attached list), seconded by Lynn Bursell. Motion passed: 7-0.

Challenges

Boards of Civil Authority are required to meet bi-annually before September 15 to review the checklist and identify voters who no longer live in town and have not already had their voting status in Westford challenged. The Town Clerk provided the BCA with a list of voters known to have moved and some that may no longer live in town. It was noted that just because a voter receives a challenge letter, it does not mean they cannot vote in Westford. However, they will have to sign an affidavit stating they still reside in town before they will be allowed to vote.

Martha Heath made a motion to approve the challenges as presented (see attached list), seconded by Becky Roy. Motion passed: 7-0.

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

The Board entered deliberative session at 6:20 p.m. The Board exited deliberative session at 6:20 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Hope, Chair
Board of Civil Authority

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk