

ALBURGH TOWN BOARD OF ABATEMENT MINUTES
Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 6:30 PM
Alburgh Fire Hall

Present: Rob Clark, Claire Clark, Lee Kimball, Donna Bohannon, Danielle James Choiniere, John Goodrich, Alton Bruso, Armand Premo, Ken Millman, Chuck Pease, Jim Magner

The meeting opened at 6:30 PM by Chair Armand Premo.

John Goodrich recused himself from proceedings and was an observer.

~ 2020-21 taxes for 1480 Windmill Point Road are \$7,160.05. Assessed value \$351,500 ~

Rob Clark stated the lighthouse and attached structure has no plumbing or water. Its main attributes are exactly as they were in 1857. Surrounding homes and buildings were built up around it. His estimation was his family pays as much taxes as newer 30-year old homes.

He stated the property is not inhabitable and hosts the occasional school field trip or historical society meeting. The lighthouse is still in active service. No compensation has ever happened from the government or coast guard. The Clark family has endured lots of money-sinks into the property from lawsuits, a new faulty roof, and vandalism. He said the coast guard owns a portion of the land.

Lister Donna Bohannon explained most of the \$351,500 assessed value is lakefront as the structures are only valued at \$52,200 with 60+% depreciation already in place. It is a historic property but the Town of Alburgh does not have special values for such and it is assessed as any other property in town.

Rob Clark suggested to talk to higher government officials like Senator Leahy. Ken Millman asked what number the Clarks would be okay with to which there was no response. Lee Kimball asked if the evaluation had changed over the years to which Jim Magner said it had not changed since 2012.

- *Chuck Pease motioned to enter executive session at 6:58 PM, seconded by Lee Kimball. All in favor, motion carried.*
- *Lee Kimball motioned to exit executive session at 7: 27 PM, seconded by Ken Millman. All in favor, motion carried.*

The Clarks were invited back into the room. The board had suggested the Clarks research registering the property as a historical landmark in case there are tax benefits of such. They also noted fundraising. While the board does not disagree the lighthouse is a special landmark to the town and taxes are high, they must operate within boundaries of the law despite their emotions. In addition, if it is true the coast guard owns some of the property, they could be saving the Clarks money.

- *Lee Kimball motioned to form a visiting committee of Ken Millman, Chuck Pease, and Lee Kimball. Chuck Pease seconded. All in favor, motion carried. They will visit independently within two weeks or fewer and create an inspection report.*
- *Chuck Pease motioned to adjourn the abatement meeting at 7:46 PM. Ken Millman seconded, all in favor, so adjourned.*