

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER  
BOARD OF ABATEMENT  
WENDY BANBURY  
MAY 9, 2023  
Draft

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Gregory Jenne, Chair

Present: William Young, Steve Tarleton, George Spear, Marsha Fraser, Victoria Young, Justin Wardwell, Gloria Martin, Melissa Spear and Nancy Robinson

Property owner: Wendy Banbury

Ms. Banbury presented the Town Clerk with an abatement request in mid-April seeking an abatement of taxes, interest and penalties for her 2022-2023 taxes per statutory criteria listed in 24 V.S.A. 1535 (3) taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest and collection fees and (5) taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the year. A meeting of the Board of Abatement was warned and noticed for May 9, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Ms. Banbury took the oath of evidence under consideration being the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Ms. Banbury stated for the record that she was not seeking abatement under section 3, inability to pay, this was more about getting before the board to explain her road issues and damages to her property. Since purchasing property in early 2022, the road near her dwelling has been washing and damaging her lawn, generator pad, causing a flat tire and seeped into the basement causing damage to carpets. Did not realize when purchasing the property that Class 4 Roads were only maintained to culvert cleaning and annual grading as needed. Received a letter in October from town stating that the highway department would be out to clean out the culverts. This did not occur. Spoke to selectboard and road commissioner several times about getting some maintenance work done, even stating that if the town would give her the road, she would take care of it. Has since heard that the town is in the process of discontinuing this road. The culvert(s) in question was installed by the previous owner of which the first twenty (20) feet is out the town's right of way. Ms. Banbury testified that she has spent approximately \$2,500.00 to date to replace tires, fix the yard, purchase sandbags and generator work. Still has more work to do to get property back in order. Working on getting a survey of her property and may decide to drill own well. Funds were used to make repairs to property rather than to pay taxes. Asked that the town abate taxes, interest and penalties for this year since money was used for road work. Will pay taxes in future years. Photographs were entered into evidence showing washed out area of lawn, roadbed, and generator pad.

Being no further testimony, Greg moved to conclude the hearing portion of the meeting at 6:35 pm and to enter into deliberative session to decide on any action to be taken. Motion was seconded by George. Written notice will be sent within 30 days of hearing.

Greg moved and Steve seconded to adjourn at 6:50 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Robinson*

Nancy Robinson,  
Clerk