

ROCKPORT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW
Town Office Richardson Room
Tuesday, 25 January 2011
5:00 PM

AGENDA

Doug Linder, Chairman
Charlton Ames, Vice Chairman
Tom Murphy
Bridget Palmer
Tony Bates

Kerry Leichtman, Assessor
Eileen Murray, Administrative Clerk
Steve Beveridge, Director Public Works
Roland Whittet

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Linder at 5:02 p.m.

Old Business:

Mr. Ames motioned to accept the minutes of 19 October 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and passed unanimously.

New Business: Appeal Hearing for Rowland Whittet

- a. Mr. Whittet applied for and was denied a Veteran's Exemption and a Homestead Exemption. This issue is not one the Board of Assessment Review has the authority to address. The Assessor will address his denial of Mr. Whittet's exemption requests with the applicant outside of this hearing.
- b. Mr. Whittet (540 Mt. Pleasant Street) contends the Town neglected to maintain proper drainage on a roadway across his property which causes wash outs each spring. Mr. Whittet further contends that the roadway has become a ravine 40' deep and 60' wide, which has rendered 15 acres of land inaccessible. Mr. Whittet says he cannot use the property for farming, lumber or as a quarry. He would like to work with the Town to improve the access or receive an abatement on land that cannot be used.

Mr. Beveridge said the current roadway configuration was established 100+ years ago. The town did not abandon the road then but no longer maintained it.

Mr. Whittet indicated on the Town map for the Board where the water drains from Mt. Pleasant across his property and down to Quiggle Brook.

- c. Mr. Beveridge informed the Board that an 8' x 18" aluminized culvert was installed on Mr. Whittet's property a few years ago that was sufficient to handle the amount of water draining from Mt. Pleasant. Mr. Whittet would like the Town to install a longer culvert. Mr. Beveridge informed the Board that it is against Town policy to perform work on private property.
- d. Mr. Whittet noted there is a secondary issue of large amounts of water going through the culvert and eroding the sides of the ravine. He said a load of stone should be put in to aid with reducing erosion. Mr. Linder noted the issue at hand was access to the property which does not include the further erosion of the ravine.

- e. After much discussion, it was decided the Town will provide a culvert to Mr. Whittet at cost (approximately \$17 per foot). Mr. Beveridge will deliver the culvert. Mr. Whittet will install it.
- f. Mr. Murphy motioned to deny the abatement for Mr. Whittet provided the Town furnish a culvert, at cost to him. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bates and passed - 5-0.
- g. Mr. Murphy motioned and Dr. Bates seconded to adjourn the meeting.

A written decision shall be provided within ten (10) days. Mr. Linder will craft the letter of decision. The letter will be left in the Assessor's Office for Board members to sign.

Mr. Leichtman introduced Administrative Clerk Eileen Murray to the Board members. She will serve as his assistant 20 hours per week.

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody V. Sainio
Recording Secretary