

**Meeting Minutes: Royalton Board of Abatement**  
**September 14th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Royalton Town Offices: Meeting Room and Zoom Conference**  
**2460 Vermont Route 14, South Royalton, Vermont 05068**

Members Present: Justices of the Peace: Chair Joshua “Bushrod” Powers, Bill Ballou, Allison Fulcher, Bruce Post, Hoyt Bingham, John Dumville and Charlie Bascom. Selectboard: Jerry Barcelow, David Barker and John Dumville. Listers: Samantha Bruce. Treasurer: Rita Hull. Clerk: Karmen Bascom.

Members Absent: Justices of the Peace: Peg Ainsworth, Rebecca Foulk and Matt Angell. Selectboard: Chris Noble and Tim Murphy. Listers: Jeff Barcelow and Walter Hastings.

Appellants: Andrew J. Alinovich and Elizabeth A. Willhite. Public: none.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chair: Joshua “Bushrod” Powers. Powers questioned Board regarding conflicts of interest; none were found. The appellants were sworn in for request.

**I Abatement Requests: A: U—350 A Alinovich & E Willhite:** Abatement request for tax year 2019 including penalties and interest to date (\$7,706.00)\* Willhite began by stating they were unable to pay their taxes, interest and collection fees: 24 VSA §1535(3) due in part to her husband’s dissolution of nine-year farm partnership venture where he worked without financial payment in hopes of gaining future equity in the company. Willhite also chose to step away practicing law in order to invest time in said partnership. Alinovich and Willhite both noted they had paid taxes for 15 years but were also still recovering from Hurricane Irene flooding, which they had to rebuild home and business. Hoyt Bingham suggested they look into the Mortgage Assistance program located at [VHFA.org/map](http://VHFA.org/map). Willhite noted their mortgage was owner-financed and subject to reimbursement limitations. Bill Ballou asked if Red Dog Restorations was still operational. Bruce Post questioned if Alinovich had completely severed from farm partnership. Alinovich noted, that while he had been simultaneously supervising large construction projects while working for the farm, he had since severed all ties with farm. Also, recent Covid-19 restrictions and a necessary removal of most of his staff had put his growing construction company in a rebuilding phase. He is now self-employed as a single craftsman on smaller projects. It was noted that Willhite had also returned to practicing law. The Board reviewed all documents, thanked Alinovich and Willhite for their time and entered deliberative session. \*Current Delinquent Tax Report dated 9/10/2020

**Board Decisions:** After deliberations Charlie Bascom motioned to abate \$7,706.00, seconded by John Dumville. Chair Powers called for a voice vote. Motion to abate was defeated. Reasons being the Board recognizes ongoing financial struggle but believes current and gainful employment accompanied by the request of the Board to have the family set up a payment plan with the Collector of Delinquent Taxes should provide a fair solution.

**II Public Comments:** none.

**III Other Business:** The Board was asked if they would consider moving meeting times to 7:00 p.m. to accommodate other members. While not generally opposed, they would like to see the 6:30 p.m. continue if quorums could be met, leaving the 7:00 p.m. as an option if needed.

Meeting adjourned 7:20 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Karmen M. Bascom, Royalton Town Clerk