

Minutes of Meeting
March 9, 2011

Present:

Donlin Murray, Chairman

Robert Cutler, Member

Harald Scheid, Regional Assessor

Debbie Dreyer, Assistant to Assessor

Guest: Resident Mike Rivers

Meeting Opened at 8:35AM

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Bob Cutler made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 9th meeting, it was 2nd by Don Murray, all in favor.

Signing of Payroll & Payables

Payroll & Payables were signed.

Open Discussion

The DOR wants the Board to sign off on the new DCR land acquisitions of the past 12-18 months. Harald verified the acreage and segmentation of the recently acquired land, but he didn't like the language saying we "concur to any previously reconciled Reimbursable State Owned Land". Harald & the Board agreed to eliminate that part and Bob made a motion to accept & sign the revised copy – this was 2nd by Donny, all in favor.

Resident Mike Rivers asked if there was any new information on the MDC land assessments that were the subject of the Jan 10th meeting attended by Mike, Harald, Bob, Terri Ackerman, Stan Weinberg & Larry Pape. Harald said he sent an e-mail on March 2nd to Jennifer Silva, our Worcester DOR rep. Jennifer didn't have the information & suggested contacting Jack Lyons in Boston.

Mike Rivers asked if the Board should send a formal letter to the DOR. There was concern that the letter would raise suspicion as to what Sterling was up to? It was then suggested that we take the approach that the Town would like to take an independent look at the DOR holdings & land line segmentations in order to reconcile our records.

Mike Rivers said we could file a Public Records Request & he could file as a concerned resident. Harald recounted for Mike the horrible meeting he & Stan Weinberg attended a few years ago with Jack Lyons of the DOR. Harald will compose a formal letter & present it to the Board for review.

Mike Rivers asked about the valuations in our system – how the DOR's compare to the acquisition cost. Harald said the DOR's acquisitions do not constitute an Arms Length Sale. They target land & will pay whatever they need to acquire certain parcels.

The Assessors will be undertaking a study to tidy up our system & tie it to GIS. It will entail a fair amount of field work & we need to wait until better weather.

Assessor's Update

Harald met with Finance Committee on March 1st. He said they just had a few questions about the budget. Will review RE Abatements at next meeting, Monday, March 14th at 8:00am.

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting, Donny 2nd, all in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25AM

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Dreyer

Assistant to Assessor