

EDGARTOWN BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING 1-22-2018

PRESENT: Alan Gowell, Chairman of the Board; Donna L. Goodale and Laurence A. Mercier, members of the Board; Ed Pierce (arriving at 3:15 PM) , Data Collector/Office Assistant; Jo-Ann Resendes, Principal Assessor; and C. Bonnell, Administrative Assistant

The Chairman brought the meeting to order at 3:07 PM.

After motion made and seconded, the minutes of the 12-27-2017 meeting will be modified to reflect that the letter to be sent to Chapter 61A applicants regarding the policy for documentation of gross sales will be sent now and will be resent again in the spring.

CORRESPONDENCE:

After reviewing letters from Fred Mascola (21-6.12 and 20D-217.3E) and Charles Hajjar, (20D-56) requesting the Board remove the Chapter 59 Section 38D fines, the Board voted unanimously to remove the fines. The Collector will be notified.

The Board reviewed the December sales.

Jo-Ann informed the Board of the application from the Slough Farm Foundation for exemption from taxes as a charitable organization. She has discussed the application with Ellen Hutchinson. The attorney for the Slough Farm Foundation has been in touch with Jo-Ann over the last several months as to how to file the 1B3 and 3ABC forms. Mr. Gowell noted that one of the directors of the foundation is Paul Singer. The foundation lists its charitable purposes as promoting sustainable agriculture and farming and providing charity to members of the community in need through donation of goods produced on the farm. Intended activities include educational classes and hands-on training (internships for children, coop programs, etc.); developing year-round greenhouse and agricultural programs (crop harvest either sold to the public or donated to local food pantries); breeding heritage animals; and developing equipment exchanges for local farmers. Jo-Ann noted that Ellen said the situation is complicated. There is a two year removal clause in the charitable organization statute which allows an organization to qualify for those years even if they are not up and running. After two years, the property could go back on the tax rolls if the foundation is not occupying the property and fulfilling an allowed charitable purpose. The facility was under construction as of the FY18 tax date and during 2017. The Board made no decision at this time. They may make a site visit and have a conference call with Ellen. Donna felt that the Board should reserve judgement until they are up and running with a community outreach. Mr. Gowell is not in favor of granting the charitable exemption. Jo-Ann will let the foundation's attorney know that they have to file another 3ABC for FY2019.

Regarding abatements, there was a brief discussion of the ones filed to date. Jo-Ann will notify the Board of any scheduled field visits.

Jo-Ann is finalizing the Welch and Forbes 61 and 61B notices of action and will have them ready for the Board to sign this week. There will also be a new lien prepared for filing at the Registry of Deeds.

After motion made and seconded, the following exemptions for FY2018 were granted:

Clause 22 (Veteran)

Donald Baril	Michael Berninger	Susan Bettencourt
Everel Black	Andre Bonnell	Patrice Brewer
Anngrey Doig	Winifred Drake	Joan Dunayer
John Farrington	Patricia Johnson	Paul O'Leary
Richard Pytko	Paul Schultz	Charles Smith
William Whalen	Stephen Whorton	Marvin Wyatt
William Carroll		

Clause 18 (aged, infirmed & impoverished)

Leigh Gibson	Ralph Gross	Beatrice Lawry
Carmen Salvador		

Clause 41C(elderly)

Peter Van Tassel	Constance Scott	Norma Sousa
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The next meeting will be posted for February 20, 2018 at 3:00 PM.

After motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted: