

**Selectmen's Workshops**  
**Monday, July 14, 2014**

Chairman Richard Morgan called the workshop to order at 2:00 PM. Present were Selectmen Richard Morgan, Robert Freeman and Franklin Riley, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. Also present were Todd Haywood, Assessor, and Kevin & Janna Straughan, Lorraine Donovan, and Robert Peterson from Agape Ministries Servants LLC.

Morgan announced the purpose of the workshop is to discuss the request for abatement of taxes and the exemption status of Agape Ministries.

The mission and financials of Agape were discussed in detail as well as the requirements to qualify for charitable status under RSA 72:23-c. Haywood presented two BTLA cases to help clarify the eligibility for exempt status.

Determination was made that Agape Ministries Servants LLC does not qualify for the charitable exemption for the 1895 Route 16 property.

Based on information provided and the assistance provided to the Town, Morgan made a motion to grant abatement of taxes on the 1895 Route 16 property for tax years 2011 and 2012. Freeman seconded. Riley requested copies of the financials from 2013. Straughan responded that he has a draft copy that he will provide to the Selectmen for review. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan stated that the request for abatement for 2013 will be pending a review of the financials when received.

Straughan was advised that he must apply for abatement on an annual basis, by March 1, at which time their financial situation and assistance provided to the residents of Town will be reviewed. Straughan added that he will also apply for the charitable exemption and provide financials annually in the event that they are found to qualify in subsequent years. Riley recommended they start this process as soon as they receive the final tax bill for the year.

Haywood and members from Agape were dismissed. The workshop recessed at 2:43 PM.

The workshop reconvened at 3:30 PM.

Present were Selectmen Morgan, Freeman, and Riley, White and David Senecal, Zoning Enforcement Officer.

White announced the purpose of the workshop is to discuss dilapidated buildings in Town and the process in which the Board would like to deal with them. She added that she had been contacted about a trailer located at 8 Mill Hill Road where the roof has caved in and is now a safety hazard.

Senecal presented information that he has presented to past Boards. He stated that there is a section in building code but no ordinance to deal with this issue.

The Board questioned if they have any authority to take action. Morgan requested that Senecal compile a current list of dilapidated buildings.

Discussion took place on the notification process and also ways to assist with clean up including waiving dumping fees. Senecal added that North Country Recycling has removed and scrapped a few trailers at the owner's request.

A brief discussion of Gordon White's variance and request for site plan review took place. The Board expressed that they would like to see guidance streamlined at the time of initial contact for all projects.

Senecal commented that the language of the checklists and applications were updated recently to be more understandable. He added that communication between the Boards is poor.

Senecal informed the Board that the updated Zoning Ordinance is in place and has been distributed.

Being no further input, the workshop was adjourned.

Adjourned at 4:07 PM.

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Richard H. Morgan

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Robert C. Freeman

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Franklin R. Riley

To be approved 7/21/2014