

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes of Public Hearing
Discretionary Preservation Easement for Historic Barn
Tuesday January 10, 2023
Town Hall
5:30 PM

Applicant: Richard Redding & Kerry McDonald, Webster Highway

Select Board members present: George Willard, Bill Ezell, and Ken Caisse

Other Attendees: Olivia Holmes, Murray Collette, Richard Redding

Meeting called to order by Ezell at 5:32 PM.

Ezell stated we received an application under RSA 79-D for a Discretionary Preservation Barn Easement from Kerry McDonald and Richard Redding, 241 Webster Highway. Ezell asked if the applicant wanted to postpone the hearing. Redding noted yes because he recently received a copy of the Avitar assessment and it questions if the barn qualifies. Redding added if the board is unsure and needs more information, he would like to have more time to gather additional information. Ezell updated the audience on some of the rules which include a commitment from the applicant for a minimum of 10 years and proper maintenance of the building. Ezell also added that approval of this application and the reduction of the assessed value of the barn, is totally up to the select board. Ezell also went over some of the questions the board will be asking during their assessment. Age of the barn, what makes it special, is it visible from the road, etc. Ezell noted that Avitar found that one of the barns is not visible from the road so it should be excluded. Redding noted he is not sure of the age of the barn but estimated it was built in the 30's or 40's.

Ezell noted if they want more time to gather more information that is fine. Willard referenced someone who could help the applicant find the age of the barn. Redding asked if there are any other barn easements in the town of Temple. Ezell stated there was only one which was not renewed last year and therefore it was discontinued. One other one being the Connolly property is current but may be a different type of easement. Ezell mentioned we have passed this by legal, and added we will go by the state guidelines when making this decision since there is nothing mentioned in our zoning ordinances. Redding asked what the tax reduction is based on. Ezell noted it is on the barn itself and you can see the valuation on the property tax card. Ezell noted that Avitar takes the barn and puts a 10-foot buffer around it and that becomes what gets the tax reduction. Ezell noted the tax benefits are relatively small. Redding noted it seems they qualify so why not proceed. Ezell suggested we continue this hearing and mentioned 2 possible dates. Ezell moved to continue this hearing to a date and time certain that date being February 28th at 5:30 pm in the town hall. Willard seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Carole Singelais