

Minutes

Board of Assessors

Town of Harvard

Meeting Date: Monday, February 25, 2013
Called to Order: 9:00 am
Meeting Adjourned: 10:40 am
Members Present: Debbie George, Rick Maiore, Joe Theriault
Other(s) Present: Sue Fitterman, Harald Scheid, Worth Robbins

New Business:

1. Minutes: The minutes from December 13, 2012 were approved.

2. Reports: Board members signed reports for motor vehicle abatements, motor vehicle warrants and commitments, and one Chapter Land tax lien.

3. Tax Deferral Application: On a George/Theriault motion, the board voted 3-0 to approve a tax deferral application for FY 2014.

4. Request for Filing Deadline Extension: On a George/Theriault motion, the board voted 3-0 to approve a request by National Grid (on behalf of Massachusetts Electric and Boston Gas) to extend the FY2014 Form of List deadline from March 1, 2013 to May 1, 2013. At a future meeting, the board will put forth a motion authorizing office staff including the Principal Assessor to grant Form of List filing extensions to May 1st.

5. Accuracy of Property Card Data: The board discussed measures to ensure the accuracy of property card data including:

- one resident's suggestion that square footage and other property card data be printed on real estate tax bills; and
- reminders to property owners to check property card data (done through tax bill insert or town-wide mailing or "Letter to Editor" in newspapers or cyclical inspection letters).

The board agreed that the most appropriate measure would be a few sentences in the letter that is mailed each year about upcoming cyclical inspections. Sue will prepare a draft of the letter for the board's review.

6. Harvard Solar Garden: Worth Robbins from the Harvard Solar Garden I, LLC attended the meeting to ask the board if the community-shared photovoltaic solar system would receive a 20-year tax exemption under Mass. General Law. Worth presented a background of the project and gave handouts regarding solar gardens, tax issues, and proposed legislation. The board did not make a determination at this time, but will wait to hear input from Harald who is attending a Department of Revenue workshop on February 26th on valuing solar photovoltaic systems for the purpose of local taxation or for negotiation in payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements.

Ongoing Business:

1. ATB Case for LTI Harvard Appleworks: The hearing is set for March 18th at 9:30 am in Boston.

2. Update on Geographic Information System (GIS): Steve Morse from RRG is working with Cartographics to add in the final data layer on Chapter land.

3. Review RRG Calendar: Action items for January and February have been completed, and annual Income and Expense surveys will be mailed to commercial businesses in March. Real estate abatement applications will be reviewed at the March BOA meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Date Approved: _____

Rick Maiore

Debra M. George

Joseph R. Theriault