

**Town of Moretown**  
**Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes**  
**11/13/2017**

Special meeting held for the purpose of discussing communications received from Lori Grenier of District 5 Environmental Commission, pertaining to Grow Compost of Vermont; and communications from Jamie Bates, Environmental Analyst via The Stormwater Program, regarding Grow Compost of Vermont; and for any other business as needed.

**Board Members present:** Rae Washburn, John Hoogenboom, Jason Aronowitz and Tom Martin

**Board Members not present:** Tom Badowski

**Guest present:** Catrina Brackett, Cheryl Brown, JB Weir and Ron Shems, Town Attorney.

**Meeting was called to order** at 5:30 pm by Tom Martin.

Based on all the communications received in the last few days from various State personnel regarding Grow Compost, the board asked the town attorney to come in for a special meeting.

The board is not pleased with the District Commissions decision. Grow Compost has not shown that most of their land and income comes from being a farm not a compost business.

2 years ago, the town filed with District 5 Environmental Court a reconsideration of Grow Compost request to terminate ACT 250 jurisdiction. To this date there has been no response.

Ron made two suggestions to file another reconsideration or file an appeal. Ron's recommendation is to file an appeal, it will get us out of the district commission since they have done nothing for 2 years and only be able to obtain information that Grow Compost is willing to release. Also, when you appeal you will go through discovery in environmental court.

Ron also suggest the Selectboard set up a meeting with Diane Snelling, Chair of the Natural Resources Board to discuss with here how displeased the Selectboard is with this process.

Tom M wants to be clear the reason the town is pursuing this is to stay ahead of any issues.

Jason questioned if there is a process for the district commission for reconsiderations. Ron confirmed there is and the response should have been in writing.

Tom M spoke about wrong information in a letter from Grow Compost owner Lisa Ransom to Susan Baird, requesting a final determination on the expiration of their multi-sector general permit 5W1510. A subsequent email from Jamie Bates to Lisa, stated the permit was not yet revoked. This will also be included in the appeal.

Neighbors have also not been included in any communication between the State and Grow Compost.

Unapproved minutes of 11/13/2017 Selectboard meeting

JB has spoken to Stephanie Smith, of State Ag. twice about Grow Compost to no end. JB was instructed by the board to visit the sight to observe the operation.

Ron read out loud the definition of farm from Vermont State Statue, Title 10 Section 6001.

**Motion:** Tom M made a motion to have Ron move forward with the appeal of the District 5 Environmental Commission memorandum of decision that Grow Composts Land Use Permit 5W1510 is expired, and Act 250 jurisdiction is terminated. Rae seconded the motion. All agreed 4-0.

Ron said the cost of the appeal will be between \$2000 - \$10,000. The appeal process can be stopped at any time by the town.

**Warrants:**

PR 17049 e2581-2592 ck# 19120

AP 17050 19121-19140

AP 17051 19141-19178

PR 17052 19179-19183 e2593-e2604

AP 17053 19184-19195

**Motion:** Tom M made a motion to adjourn at 6:30pm. John seconded the motion. All agreed. 4-0