



# Select Board

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## Select Board Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2019

6:00 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Select Board Members: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Doane Perry, Eric Shimelonis and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Bernie Opened Public Hearing for Tax Classification.

Jeff Reynolds from the Assessors' Office gave a brief explanation of the Tax Rate report. He stated that the tax levy has been established and the town has had new growth. He suggested that the town adopt the single tax rate. He stated that the new tax rate will be \$13.12 per \$1000 of value. This is an increase of an average of \$360.00/year.

Bernie then read a motion and it was seconded by Doane to accept this tax rate. Vote was unanimous.

Board reviews and approves warrants; payroll and vendor.

**Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting Opened at 6:00PM**

**2020 Liquor License renewals-**

Bernie read the list of establishments that have applied for a liquor license renewal license for 2020. They were:

Queensboro Wine & Spirits	26 Main Street
Truc Orient Express	Harris Street
Rouge	3 Center Street
Tap House at Shaker Mill	5 Albany Road
The Foundry	2 Harris Street
WS Public Market	8 Main Street

Bernie then made a motion to approve all the licenses for 2020, Doane seconded. Bernie asked if there was any further discussion, seeing none, all were approved unanimously.

**2020 Auto Class II and Class II and Taxi License renewals-**

Bernie told the audience that he would like the audience to allow the Select Board to discuss the licenses prior to any input from them. He stated these are renewals that are approved by the Select Board. Doane stated that he is in favor of renewing all of the licenses as long as they are in compliance with the town bylaws. He would like to hear any concerns that the audience may have because he feels it is important for them to be aware of any issues to help make the town better. Eric stated that he was not inclined to approve any license to a business that is not in compliance. Eric said he feels that it is the Boards responsibility to make sure everyone is in compliance.

Bernie explained that in the past all licenses had one line written on them and that last year the Board decided to change them and add verbiage to include some compliance so they had something to measure compliance on the property. Eric stated that the Board needs to have something to measure if they are in compliance. As Bernie explained, as for the Troy's Garage Licenses, that as he reads the conditions attached to the license, he believes they are in compliance. He then asked Eric what exactly does he think that they are not in compliance with. Eric stated that he wanted some objective and expert testimony about compliance, and that he did not want the board to have to make a subjective judgement call. Eric wanted the Board's decision to be based on objective facts and not opinions.

Bernie then read a letter from Virginia McGarrity, a resident, who sent in a letter to be read at the meeting as a matter of record as well as the e-mail chain she supplied. (see attached) This

letter was in support of the renewal for Troy's Garage License as well as her concern in regards to an e-mail that Eric had sent out to certain people in town, which suggested he wanted to exert pressure in not renewing the license. Again, Bernie asked Eric what was not in compliance. Eric stated nothing specific, he noted that over the summer he commented on the fact that when renewing the licenses the Board needs to be clear that the applicants are in compliance with all the bylaws and conditions set forth. Bernie asked Eric what he meant in his e-mail sent to the list serve as to "let's show some resolve". Bernie then stated that Eric said the Select Board, at that time, did not do anything, no enforcement in regards to junk cars. However, Bernie responded that the Board did have Troy's Garage comply with their requests and that a lot has been done by the Board as well as the D'Aniello's. There has been a lot accomplished over the past year. Bernie also stated that the previous year, our Select Board reduced the number of cars from 95 to below 25, in addition to major improvements on both sides of the street. Currently, they are well within the conditions on their licenses.

Eric then stated he was going to recuse himself from the auto license renewals. He will not sign any of them at this time and will not comment any further.

Then there was a lengthy discussion by the audience mostly in support of the D'Aniello family and what they have done for the community.

Bernie then stated that he had spoken with Town Counsel during the day and that they cautioned the Select Board in regards to not renewing Troy's Garage license unless there is a major reason that is not in compliance because the Town could be sued. He stated that the D'Aniello's and the Town are working together and things are getting accomplished and moving in a positive direction. Since things are in compliance, Bernie asked, then why are we going through all this? The Audience then had a discussion about compliance and their concern about the e-mail that Eric had sent out against renewing the licenses.

Alex Glover, Attorney for the D'Aniello family stated that she has never seen anything like the e-mail that Eric sent out. She handed a copy of the e-mail to the Board to be put into the record. She asked if there were any violations and no one the Board commented. Eric again said he recused himself and that he only sent the e-mail to the community to have the discussion on compliance. Again, Attorney Glover asked what was the violation or compliance issue. Eric did not respond. Bernie then read the conditions that were attached to the Troy's Garage license as per Town Counsel. Tim Walsh commented that he came to the meeting because of his concern that the Board might not approve his Liquor License for the Public Market. Doane then stated that the Board should approve all the licenses and focus on the conditions and compliance.

The audience then had a discussion on compliance and Troy's Garage. Bernie then made a motion to approve all the licenses. There was no second as Doane asked if everyone was in

compliance. Dawn Korte told the D'Aniello's that if there is anything not in compliance to let the community know and they will all help to get it fixed for them. Attorney Glover stated she had a concern about the "conditions" attached to the license since it is something that the D'Aniello's have never signed. She said they are happy to come before the Board in the future to discuss any issues or concerns that they have.

Bernie again made a motion to approve all the Auto Class II, Class II and taxi Licenses for 2020. Doane seconded and two were in favor with Eric abstaining.

Attorney Alex Glover asked for permission from the board to discuss this issue with Town Council, all three Board members approved.

Eric then apologized about his poorly written e-mail. He stated that he just wanted to have a turnout for the meeting for a voice of the community on the renewal of the licenses. He said he wants to have town businesses thrive but he wants compliance as well.

#### **Mark Scoco – Request for Special Town Meeting for Silver Mine Road to be Town Road-**

Mark presented a diagram of the layout of Silver Mine Road to the Board. He stated that he has created the road to all Town specs and wants to have the road become a Town road. Bernie stated that this would be a positive for the town and could possibly affect Chapter 90 money slightly with an increase in funds for the Town. He said he would like to wait to present this at the Annual Town Meeting not a Special Town Meeting. He said if there becomes a need for a Special Town Meeting, they could put it on the warrant but if not, they would like to do it at the Annual Meeting. The Board thanked Mark.

#### **Permission for Planning Board to work with Town Council on Cell Tower Special Permit-**

Planning Board Member Dana Bixby requested permission from the Select Board to work with Town Council on a special permit for a cell tower renewal. All the Board members approved.

#### **Miscellaneous Items:**

Doane suggested to the Board that possibly the applicants who received their renewals could come in quarterly to update the Board.

Someone asked Bernie who is responsible for enforcement when there are violations with these licenses. Bernie stated that the Board would deal with the issues if people come to the Board with the information on a violation.

Karden Rabin asked the Board if the conditions were signed for Troy's Garage. Bernie asked Marie to look into this.

Bernie then made a motion to adjourn, Doane Seconded, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Marie Y. Ryan  
Town Administrator



Fiscal Year 2020

# Tax Classification Hearing

December 4, 2019

## West Stockbridge Board of Assessors

Harald M. Scheid – Regional Assessor

Jeffrey T. Reynolds, Jr. – Associate Assessor

Michael Thiemann – Associate Assessor

Michelle Laramée – Assessor

Susan Lupo – Assessor

Ed Sporn – Assessor

Mary Stodden – Clerk

## **Introduction**

Prior to the mailing of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter tax billings, the Select Board holds a public hearing to determine the percentage of the Town's property tax levy to be borne by each major property class. This responsibility and procedure are described in Chapter 40, Section 56 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The steps in completing the Classification Hearing are outlined below. Also provided is information about the levy, property assessments, and recommendations made by the Board of Assessors.

## **Steps in Setting Tax Rates**

### **Pre-classification Hearing Steps**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Step 1:Determination of the property tax levy | (Budget Process) |
| Step 2:Determine assessed valuations          | (Assessors)      |
| Step 3:Tabulate assessed valuations by class  | (Assessors)      |

### **Classification Hearing Steps**

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Step 4:Classification hearing presentation | (Assessors & Select Board) |
| Step 5: Determine tax shift options        | (Select Board)             |
| Step 6:Voting a tax shift factor           | (Select Board)             |

### **Post Classification Hearing Steps**

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Step 7:Sign the LA-5 Classification Form              | (Select Board) |
| Step 8:Send annual recap to DOR for tax rate approval | (Assessors)    |
| Step 9:Obtain DOR approval of tax rates               | (DOR)          |

## Terminology

The following are definitions of the terms frequently used in the discussion of tax rates.

**Levy:** The tax levy (or levy) is the amount of property taxes to be raised. The levy amount is determined by the budget. The total amount of the approved budget less revenues from other sources like motor vehicle excise, municipal fees, and state aid is the amount to be raised from property taxation.

**Levy Ceiling:** The levy ceiling is 2.5 percent of the full value of the Town. Based on the West Stockbridge aggregate valuation of \$381,863,721, the town cannot levy taxes in excess of \$9,546,593.

**New Growth Revenue:** Property taxes derived from newly taxable properties like new construction, additions, renovations, subdivisions, and personal property. The assessors have tabulated new growth revenues of \$46,875.

**Levy Limit:** Also referred to as the "maximum allowable levy", this is calculated by adding 2.5 percent of the previous year's levy limit plus new growth revenue for the present fiscal year to last year's levy limit. Exceeding the levy limit requires an override of Proposition 2 ½. For Fiscal Year 2020, there are no overrides of Proposition 2 ½.

**Excess Levy Capacity:** Excess levy capacity is the difference between the levy and the levy limit.

## The Fiscal Year 2020 Levy Limit and Amount to be Raised

The following is a calculation of West Stockbridge's levy limit for fiscal year 2020.

Fiscal year 2019 levy limit	\$5,926,880
Amended FY2019 Growth	0
Levy increase allowed under Prop. 2 ½	148,172
New growth revenue	46,875
FY2020 Overrides	0
FY2020 Debt Exclusions	110,613
Fiscal year 2020 levy limit	6,121,927
Levy ceiling	9,546,593
<b>Levy to be raised</b>	<b>\$5,010,052</b>
Excess levy capacity	\$1,222,488

## Valuations by Class Before Tax Shift

<u>Major Property Class</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Res vs CIP%</u>
Residential	354,673,087	92.8795	92.8795
Commercial	12,547,807	3.2859	
Industrial	2,593,600	0.6792	7.1205
Personal Property	12,049,227	3.1554	
TOTAL	381,863,721	100.0000	

## Shifting the Tax Burden

Municipalities with a large commercial/industrial tax base often see fit to shift the tax burden to help maintain lower residential taxes. Given West Stockbridge's small commercial and industrial base, it would take a large shift of the tax burden from the residential class to the commercial and industrial class to yield a modest residential tax reduction.

## Board of Assessors Recommendation

The Board of Assessors recommends that the Select Board adopt a single tax rate to be applied to all classes of property in West Stockbridge.

## Tax Rates

Based on the above shift factors, the Board of Assessors has calculated the following tax rates needed to raise the tax levy:

<u>Property Class</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2019</u>
Residential	\$13.12	12.13
Commercial	\$13.12	12.13
Industrial	\$13.12	12.13
Personal Property	\$13.12	12.13

Note that the FY2020 rate is an estimate only and may change upon Department of Revenue review.

## Tax Impacts

While the relatively modest change in tax rate is encouraging, actual property tax impacts will vary from property to property.

The residential classes, including single family homes and small multifamily homes, have remained largely unchanged for FY2020, reflecting the continued stability in the real estate market. The residential land schedule remains unchanged for FY2020.

### Examples of Typical Residential Tax Changes

<u>Residential Class</u>	<u>Average FY19 Value</u>	<u>Avg. Tax</u>	<u>Average FY20 Value</u>	<u>Avg. Tax</u>	<u>Change</u>
Single Family Homes	\$418,019	\$5,071	\$414,214	\$5,434	+363
2 & 3 Family Homes	339,011	4,112	335,379	4,400	+288

In general, the commercial class valuations are remaining stable for FY2020.

## Voting a Tax Shift Factor (proposed motion)

The West Stockbridge Select Board votes in accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 40, Sec. 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2020 tax rates and set the Residential Factor at 1.0, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.0, pending approval of the town's annual tax recap by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

## Summary of Assessments (LA4)

<u>Property Type</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Industrial</u>	<u>Personal Property</u>
101-Single Family	708	293,263,700	-0-	-0-	-0-
102-Condominiums	0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
103,109-Misc Res	34	20,466,900	-0-	-0-	-0-
104-Two Family	18	6,116,100	-0-	-0-	-0-
105-Three Family	1	256,100	-0-	-0-	-0-
111-125-Apartments	2	927,300	-0-	-0-	-0-
130's-Vacant Land	221	24,792,400	-0-	-0-	-0-
012-043-Mixed Use	8	8,850,587	1,414,256	-0-	-0-
300-393-Commercial	43	-0-	10,174,700	-0-	-0-
400-452-Industrial	10	-0-	-0-	2,593,600	-0-
500-508-Pers. Prop.	251	-0-	-0-	-0-	12,049,227
600's-Forestry	10	-0-	160,734	-0-	-0-
700's-Agricultural	13	-0-	308,007	-0-	-0-
800's-Recreation	8	-0-	490,110	-0-	-0-
<b>TOTAL BY CLASS</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>354,673,087</b>	<b>12,547,807</b>	<b>2,593,600</b>	<b>12,049,227</b>
<b>TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTIES</b>					<b>381,863,721</b>
<b>TOTAL TAX EXEMPT PROPERTIES</b>	<b>(56)</b>				<b>20,360,500</b>



Urgent: Message

Wed, Dec 4, 2019 2:27 PM

From: "McGarity, Virginia" <vmcgarity@rc.com>  
 WSTown Administrator

To: bwfallon@yahoo.com eric@shimelonis.com  
 Marie Ryan doaneperry@gmail.com  
 admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov WSTown Administrator

Cc: "bwfallon@yahoo.com" <bwfallon@yahoo.com>  
 "doaneperry@gmail.com" <doaneperry@gmail.com>  
 "eric@shimelonis.com" <eric@shimelonis.com>

Subject: Select Board Meeting 12/4 - JUNK CARS

Attachments: Statement by Virginia McGarity.pdf / Uploaded File (16K)  
 McGarity, Virginia <vmcgarity@rc.com> / FW: Meeting tomorrow. ...  
 Dominic Lydon <dominolydon@gmail.com> / Fwd: Town meeting (...)

Hello Marie,

Thank you for speaking with me this morning about tonight's Select Board meeting. As I stated during our call, I am unable to attend in-person due to a previously scheduled work commitment. For that reason, I have attached a statement that I would like to have read and preserved in the public record. In my statement I make mention of an email sent by Mr. Shimelonis to a private email listerv of a select group of West Stockbridge residents. I have included a copy of Mr. Shimelonis's email, as well as a series of exchanges he had with one West Stockbridge resident in particular (Dominic Lydon). I believe that in the interest of full disclosure, these emails should be shared with the Select Board and the public.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Virginia McGarity

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This transmittal may be a confidential R+C attorney-client communication or may otherwise be privileged or confidential. If it is not clear that you are the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this transmittal in error; any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this transmittal is strictly prohibited. If you suspect that you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone at 1-860-275-8200, or e-mail at it-admin@rc.com, and immediately delete this message and all its attachments.

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December 4, 2019

To the Members of the West Stockbridge Select Board:

My name is Virginia McGarrity and I am a West Stockbridge homeowner and taxpayer. I reside year-round at 62 Pixley Hill Road with my husband, Crockett McGarrity, and our two daughters, ages 4 and 6. I am writing to you because I am unable to attend tonight's Select Board meeting due to an out-of-state work commitment, but I am copying Marie Ryan as the Town Administrator so that my statement may be read and entered into the official record.

I am writing to express my wholehearted support of Troy's Garage, located at 7 Albany Road, and the renewal of their 2020 Auto Class II and III licenses. I am a customer of Troy's Garage and a family friend of John Victor D'Aniello, co-owner of Troy's Garage, and his wife Stacie.

Troy's Garage is a venerable, local institution that was first established by Garrett "George" Troy in 1916. Troy's Garage housed the town's first fire engine truck in 1928 and remained the *de facto* firehouse for many years. John's grandparents bought Troy's Garage in 1963 and it has been continuously owned and operated by the D'Aniello family since that time. In keeping with Troy's Garage's rich history, John and his family have continued to be local business leaders promoting community leadership and civic engagement. Beyond providing much needed tax revenue to West Stockbridge, Troy's Garage is a generous sponsor of several local youth softball, baseball and basketball teams. Troy's Garage also provides donations to local non-profit organizations in the area, including The Norman Rockwell Museum (as listed in the past annual reports of such organizations). The owners of Troy's Garage are present and active participants in many (if not all) of West Stockbridge's community events (case in point, my children went trick-or-treating at Troy's Garage just this past October). It is also important to note that Troy's Garage is a veteran-owned business, with John's father marching in the West Stockbridge parade each year.

Beyond the business itself, I ask the Select Board to consider the individual owners themselves. John and his father embody what I believe is the very best of the Berkshires. They are kind, down-to-earth people who will take every opportunity to help their neighbors. I know many people who have relied on their goodwill over the years. I personally know of multiple instances whereby John performed free or extremely discounted car repair services for local families who could not have otherwise afforded it. I also know of the many times John has left his home in the dead of night to help individuals with their car troubles – these are not services performed by a local business owner, but of a neighbor who cares about those in his community. John is one of the hardest working people I know, and Troy's Garage is his livelihood that supports his wife and two daughters.

In addition to recognizing the many contributions of Troy's Garage and its owners to West Stockbridge, I must also respectfully request that the Select Board consider the recent conduct of its own – Mr. Shimelonis. By way of backchannels, Mr. Shimelonis has established a private email listserv of select West Stockbridge residents for the sole purpose of furthering his own agenda. Neither myself or my husband are included in this listserv (despite our being taxpayers and full-time residents), but a copy of his most recent email (sent December 3, 2019) was

forwarded to me and I have supplied a copy to Ms. Ryan so that it may also be included in the public record. In this email, Mr. Shimelonis urges his supporters to attend tonight's meeting in order to "pressure" the Select Board to "make the right decision for our town" by not renewing the Auto Class II and III licenses for a certain business. Although Mr. Shimelonis does not reference Troy's Garage by name, it is well understood by all that Troy's Garage is the target. In fact, a West Stockbridge resident (Dominic Lydon) responded to Mr. Shimelonis's email expressing concern over its tone and Mr. Shimelonis specifically referred to Troy's Garage in his response. This chain of emails has also been provided to Ms. Ryan for the record. It is unclear to me whether the other members of the Select Board are included in this email listserv, but I would ask that you disclose this at the meeting. As you well know, where a quorum of the members of a public body belong to a listserv, public body members cannot participate in discussions which involve subject matter within the jurisdiction of the public body without engaging in unlawful deliberation in violation of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law. Even without a violation of the Open Meeting Law, the Select Board should be gravely concerned with the appearance of impropriety created by this listserv and the conduct of Mr. Shimelonis. As a lawyer who frequently represents public bodies in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, I can unequivocally state that Mr. Shimelonis's conduct is well outside the norm and suggests an extreme bias against the owners of Troy's Garage. Moreover, I am dismayed to learn that prior to his email Mr. Shimelonis has not attempted to contact the owners of Troy's Garage to discuss his concerns.

To conclude, I urge the Select Board to renew the applicable licenses for Troy's Garage so that the business and its owners may continue to meaningfully contribute to the welfare of our town. I have no doubt that the owners of Troy's Garage are willing (and eager) to hear the concerns of the Select Board and to take all reasonable steps requested of them to resolve the issue(s) presented.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia McGarrity

62 Pixley Hill Road  
West Stockbridge, MA



Message

Wed, Dec 4, 2019 11:10 AM

From: Dominic Lydon <dominolydon@gmail.com>  
To: "Johnvdauto@gmail.com" <johnvdauto@gmail.com>  
 Melissa Lydon <melee.lydon@gmail.com> "McGarity, Virginia" <vmcgarity@rc.com>

Subject: Fwd: Town meeting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Dominic Lydon <dominolydon@gmail.com>  
**Date:** December 4, 2019 at 10:52:15 EST  
**To:** Eric Shimelonis <eric@shimelonis.com>  
**Subject: Re: Town meeting**

Interesting,

1. because the administrator hadn't received the email either.
2. You've posted political posts before.
3. I heard wind of a retort you made regarding not signing the troys license at an otherwise unrelated selectman meeting over the summer, interestingly it has not showed up in the minutes.

See you tonight

Dominic Lydon

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 4, 2019, at 10:42, Eric Shimelonis <eric@shimelonis.com> wrote:

Hi again, Dominic,

Sorry, I was off by one degree: you're not on the email list, but Melissa has been since I met her last April at the Elling's house, and she shared her email address with me. She has gotten all of these agenda oriented emails. I strive to communicate to anyone who wants to be included, and I continue to work toward more outreach and transparency.

Here is a section of a recent email outlining some of those efforts:

-----  
So long as I am reaching out, I want to make you aware of some things we're doing to make your ongoing involvement in town government easier:

First, the town website has undergone a redesign - which continues to get refined: [www.weststockbridge-ma.gov](http://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov)  
If you have any ideas of how we can make this site better, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Second, to make it easier to reach out: we've established a new email address that will go to all of the members of the Select Board, along with the Town Administrator. Again, please don't be shy about using this to communicate any idea, issue, or concern that you might have: [selectboard@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:selectboard@weststockbridge-ma.gov)

Third, and finally, in addition to keeping our cable broadcasts of meetings up and running, we are working to establish an online archive of meeting videos, which will continue to be updated immediately after any meeting. This will allow you to keep an eye on town business at your convenience, and to look back on past discussions that you might have missed. Once this is established, we'll put links on the website.

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Social media is no place for fair and effective political communication - not in the national scene, and not in the local. Please feel free to use the channels of communication that we have in place, and definitely speak up in the meeting tonight. All present and concerned will hear your words, and they will be officially recorded in the public record.

Sincerely,

Eric

On Dec 4, 2019, at 10:05 AM, Dominic Lydon <[dominolydon@gmail.com](mailto:dominolydon@gmail.com)> wrote:

Eric for starters I'm not on the email list as far as I know and didn't receive it directly.

Secondly troys has been there a long time, and you've been here too, why have you not contacted them before now. Their phone number is public and you certainly know where to find them. I feel as though your process is directed at your supporters and not in a fair manner, if you will back up your fair process you will grant me permission to share your email publicly and I mean publicly, with my thoughts attached. May I share your email with your signature publicly via social media?

I'm sure you have spent many hours volunteering, that's what you signed up for and that's what the public voted for, however it seems the communication hasn't been universally inclusive to properly allow the democratic process to exist and weigh in.

Please advise

Best

Dominic

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 4, 2019, at 09:56, Eric Shimelonis <[eric@shimelonis.com](mailto:eric@shimelonis.com)> wrote:

Dear Dominic,

Thank you for your email. I appreciate hearing your point of view.

First, you've been on my email list for some time now. You've

received a number of emails like the attached one alerting folks of the important items on upcoming agendas, and encouraging their attendance and involvement. Let's not call this email "an 11th hour attempt" at anything except for a substantial democratic process.

There was no assumption in my email that everyone receiving it shares my particular point of view, and I think the issue will be better resolved by having all perspectives represented tonight - including yours.

I'd like to point out that I am passionate about the success of all of our local merchants. On top of spending every possible dollar in our local establishments, I have given volunteer hours to many of them. These positive sentiments apply just as much to Troy's Garage.

However, since I have entered the political sphere, this issue of junk cars is one of the most universally concerning to residents. I have heard so much from so many on the subject. Additionally, I think it's vital that our local government assign and enforce permits with consistency and objectivity. For the sake of fairness and justice, compliance can be the only measure.

Still, I will take your recommendation, and I will ask to meet with John today. Any chance you could share his number with me? Or pass on my number to him and ask him to call? Mine is 212-246-8104.

Thanks,  
Eric

On Dec 4, 2019, at 7:10 AM, Dominic Lydon <[dominolydon@gmail.com](mailto:dominolydon@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Eric

I am aware of your email as follows:

Dear Friends,

On the agenda at tomorrow's Select Board meeting are Class II and III auto license renewals.

These are the licenses that allow several establishments in town to keep junk cars on their property. Junk cars are not allowed in West Stockbridge as per zoning bylaws, except through these licenses.

Last year, there were a number of hearings concerning the abuse of these permits, which in one instance continues to manifest in a veritable junkyard in our town center. The Select Board at the time brought together residents, abutters, and the permit holders to work out some equitable solutions. The licenses were revised with a list of very reasonable terms.

Since then, in many cases, the agreed to terms have not been complied with.

I don't think we should renew permits for establishments that have not been in compliance.

Though I cling to the hope that my colleagues on the Select Board will be as resolute as I am, we might all benefit from some good old fashioned public support (i.e. pressure) to help us make the right decision for our town.

If you consider the issue of junk cars an important one, I hope you'll join us at the Town Hall: tomorrow, [Wednesday December 4th, at 6pm](#).

Sincerely,

Eric

I am writing to say that I will be at the meeting tonight and that I am not impressed by your 11th hour effort to hamper the efforts of a town fixture, indeed a historic one too. While I am not disagreeing that the town center should be maintained at a fine standard and that there is work to be done, I seriously question the ethics and motivation behind your "behind the scenes" rallying to come out against the long standing business there.

Have you ever met the owners of the business? Do you know the families it keeps in clothes and food? Do you know the efforts that have been made to comply with the requests of several onslaughts of self serving neighbors?

Perhaps you know of some of these things but through the mouths of more self serving concerned people.

Before considering to really really upset an apple cart I beg of you to get to know the issues first hand before taking the sides of your advisors. Please contact John Victor D' Aniello, 3rd generation Troys Garage owner, indeed the best man at my wedding, father of 2 wonderful girls that play here regularly, hero to many many local folks alike. The hardest working person I know.

John is a young forward thinking approachable guy trying to make the best of an old auto repair facility, it is not easy to own and repair and maintain but it is in his best interest and there is no doubt that his efforts will net more for the town and himself and your supporters. Despite what you imply in your email, much has changed in the last year there and I don't see reason to discount those efforts as you have . I again beg you to talk to him before making blind assumptions. Without making this effort you are doing an injustice to the town and it's citizens.

Thanks and I hope you consider my thoughts.

Dominic Lydon

Sent from my iPhone