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April 17, 2024

Board of Selectmen
Town of Barnstead
PO Box 11, 108 South Barnstead Road
Barnstead, NH 03225

Re: Erin Stone and Jared Hanselman

Dear Board Members:

This office represents Erin Stone and Jared Hanselman. As you may know, they anticipate proceeding with a construction project on their property in the near future. They have asked that I contact the Board to address their very real concern that they will be singled out and treated unfairly during the building inspection process.

As you are aware, the Town's Building Inspector became engaged in a very heated presentation at a planning board hearing in March 2024, personally attacking Ms. Stone. The tape recording of the hearing reveals Mr. Cusson ultimately threatened to sue Ms. Stone for "defamation." Needless to say, this was quite a shock and revealed a level of animus that inexorably leads to the conclusion that in the case of Ms. Stone the building inspector cannot be an unbiased judge of code compliance. If Mr. Cusson were a member of a planning board or zoning board, the law would clearly call for that member to step aside. See, RSA 673:14 (Board member disqualified "if that member would be disqualified for any cause to act as a juror upon the trial of the same matter in any action at law").

The purpose of this letter, however, is not to attack Mr. Cusson. He is entitled to his opinions. Rather we wish to make clear what the problem is and to seek a compromise to resolve it. It has been my experience working with my towns over the years that when a situation like this arises, the Board of Selectmen will seek a reasonable way to diffuse the situation. Ms. Stone and Mr. Hanselman expect this is a unique situation. What we ask is that they receive unbiased inspections, without harassment, the same as all other citizens of the

10 Centre Street, Concord, NH 03301
Concord – Peterborough – Portsmouth

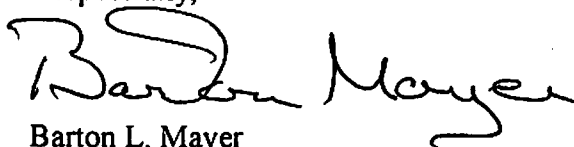
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community. Ms. Stone and Mr. Hanselman propose that the Board of Selectmen appoint an independent building inspector, at their expense, to inspect their building projects. In this way, the contentiousness is eliminated and the parties can go about their business in peace. They suggest the building inspector from Pittsfield might be a mutually acceptable choice and the State inspector could inspect electrical issues.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barton L. Mayer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Barton L. Mayer

BLM

cc: Karen Montgomery, Town Administrator
Fab Cusson, Building Inspector
Erin Stone
Jared Hanselman