



August 3, 2021

Dear Development Review Board Members,

During a very lengthy Executive Session last evening, we discussed thoroughly the letter that was sent to us on June 23, 2021, by several of your members. As you requested, we reviewed and deliberated the points that were made about Board member, Judy Bickford, and her alleged actions.

As to the things Judy said during the first of the two meetings you cited, we feel that her words could have been more carefully selected. While Judy's words may have seemed harsh, we feel she exercised her freedom of speech in making her comments. Judy's comments at the second meeting you cited were not made in the form of a motion, but rather to see if the other Board members would support her proposal. Each Board member has the ability to do the same thing. We don't find her question to have been out of line.

As to the accusation of ex parte communication (defined in Vermont Law under T24 VSA 1207), we draw no conclusion that it occurred based on the timing or sequence of events you listed. Judy denies releasing any information she was privileged to have as a result of her position on the Select Board.

We appreciate and are grateful for the time our volunteer Board members give in service to our community. Without your volunteerism, responsible growth in our town would be in jeopardy. Going forward we will use what we've learned from this process to help in our decision making, both personally and as a group.

Respectfully,

Morristown Select Board