

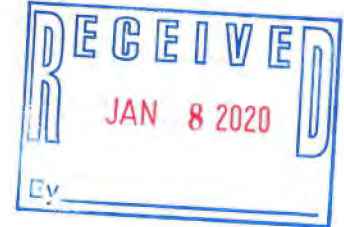


KEYES LAW OFFICES
P.C.

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December 27, 2019

North Reading Select Board
Ms. Kate Manupelli, Chair
Mr. Stephen O'Leary, Vice Chair
235 North Street
North Reading, MA 01864



RE: Notice of Resignation

Dear Ms. Manupelli and Mr. O'Leary,

Please accept this letter as notice of my resignation from my appointment as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of North Reading, effective at the close of our next meeting on January 9, 2020.

I am resigning as a result of what transpired at the last meeting of the Select Board regarding the reappointment of Mr. James Demetri and Mr. Paul O'Leary. It was clear to me after viewing your December 16, 2019 meeting that the Select Board ignored their own policies and procedures when appointing applicants in favor of appointing a person that three Select Board members had obviously planned to appoint prior to the meeting.

The ZBA is a three-person board that also has three associate members. Typically, if there is a vacancy on the board, one of the associate members is appointed and then the vacancy is filled to cover the associate member opening. That fact that this procedure was ignored by the Select Board further underscores that the decision to not reappoint Mr. O'Leary was purely political. Finally, the manner in which Select Board Member Schultz behaved when questioned about his recommendation to not reappoint Paul O'Leary was completely unprofessional and showed a complete lack of decorum and courtesy for the process in general and to the appointees.

As a volunteer, I do not consider my appointment a political matter. I am either appointed or I am not. If I am not going to be reappointed, it should not come as a surprise to me, the chairman of that board, and especially not to members of the Select Board mid-meeting. What transpired should be a reminder of how NOT to run a public meeting.