

Submitted to the Barnstead Board of Selectmen

September 10, 2025

Regarding the property located at 948 Province Road, Barnstead NH 03218

Jared Hanselman and Erin Stone

Overview

This packet documents ongoing problems with the Town of Barnstead's handling of our building permits and inspections for our barn project located at 948 Province Road. Despite the Town's contract with Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI) granting their inspector full authority to act as the Town's building inspector, we have experienced repeated delays, lost paperwork, and continued involvement of a recused inspector. The Town's own attorney has confirmed MRI was supposed to directly oversee our project and building permits.

Key Findings

1. MRI Contract Authority (Exhibit A)

- The MRI contract (August 27, 2024) clearly states MRI will assume "all appropriate authority, normally vested in the Town's personnel."
- MRI's inspector (Peter Rowell) should therefore have full authority to review, approve, and sign permits.

2. Building Inspector Recusal (Exhibits B–D)

- Mr. Fab Cusson, Barnstead's building inspector, has publicly and in writing recused himself from all inspections and permit matters related to our farm.
- He confirmed this to us, to the Selectmen, and even to our electrician in a written message.

3. Improper Involvement of Recused Inspector & Selectmen (Exhibit E)

- Despite his recusal, Mr. Cusson continues to review and sign our permits.

- Our electrician's August 11, 2025 permit application was reviewed and approved by MRI (Peter Rowell), but then routed back to Mr. Cusson, where it was subsequently "lost."
- The Town Administrator has stated our permit must go before the Selectmen for approval, though RSA 155-A does not require Selectmen involvement in routine building permit approvals.

4. Town Attorney Confirmation of MRI Oversight (Exhibit F)

- In an August 16, 2024 email, Attorney Matthew Upton explicitly stated MRI should "oversee the project and the renewal of the building permit" and "work directly" with us to avoid delays.
- He further confirmed MRI should handle "any inspections... now or in the future."
- This legal guidance reinforces that MRI was intended to serve as inspector of record for our project.

5. Public Record Concerns

- Our August 11, 2025 electrical permit application has not been produced and is being treated as "lost," despite being a public record under RSA 91-A.

Impact on Our Project

- Our electrician has been unable to obtain a signed electrical permit despite repeated submissions.
- Our barn project faces continued delays due to confusion over authority, unnecessary resubmission demands, and misplaced paperwork.
- We have lost time and confidence in the Town's permitting process.

Requested Clarifications & Resolution

We respectfully ask the Board of Selectmen to:

1. Clarify who holds the legal authority to review and approve permits under the MRI contract.
 2. Confirm that recused individuals (Mr. Cusson) will no longer be involved in any of our permits.
 3. Ensure MRI is empowered to fulfill its contractual role as the inspector of record.
 4. Direct Town Hall to correct procedural issues so that permits are not delayed, politicized, or “lost.”
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Public Forum Request

Unless these concerns are fully resolved in writing prior to the next Selectmen meeting, we request to be added to the agenda for the September 16, 2025 meeting in order to discuss this matter in a public forum.

Supporting Documentation

- Exhibit A – MRI Contract (August 27, 2024)
- Exhibit B – Fab Cusson Public Recusal Statement (Dec. 14, 2024)
- Exhibit C – Text from Fab to Jared Confirming Recusal (Apr. 19, 2024)
- Exhibit D – Text from Fab to Electrician Eric Confirming Recusal (May 29, 2025)
- Exhibit E – Recap of September 9, 2025 Conversation with MRI Inspector Peter Rowell
- Exhibit F – Town Attorney Email Confirming MRI Oversight (Aug. 16, 2024)