

Exhibit Packet – Building Inspector Recusal & MRI Contract

Submitted to the Barnstead Board of Selectmen

September 10, 2025

Exhibit A – MRI Contract (August 27, 2024)

Source: Professional Services Agreement between the Town of Barnstead and Municipal Resources, Inc.

- Section II (“Scope of Work”) states:

“...the MRI consultant assigned to this project will be afforded all the appropriate authority, and will assume all appropriate responsibility, normally vested in the Town’s personnel.”
- This establishes that MRI (Peter Rowell) was contracted to act as the Building Inspector with full authority normally held by the Town’s inspector.

Exhibit B – Public Statement by Building Inspector Fab Cusson (December 14, 2024)

Source: Public post authored by Fab Cusson to the “Barnstead NH Community Group” Facebook page

- Fab confirms he recused himself from our property:

“...I met with the Selectmen and voluntarily recused myself from inspecting their property, but not from any other building inspector duties outside their property. Honestly, after the treatment I received at the PB meeting, I wasn’t comfortable ever stepping foot on that property again anyway.”
- This is a formal acknowledgment that he would no longer perform inspections or building-related duties on our property.

Exhibit C – Text Message from Fab to Jared (April 19, 2024, 10:08 AM)

Source: Direct message from Fab Cusson to Jared Hanselman

- Fab states explicitly:

“...I will let the Selectmen know that I also wish to recuse myself as inspector on projects completed on your property. I wish you only the best with your projects Jared!”

- This confirms not only his recusal, but also his intent to formally notify the Selectmen of that recusal.

Exhibit D – Text Message from Fab to Electrician Eric Marques (May 29, 2025)

Source: Direct message from Fab Cusson to Eric Marques

- Fab states explicitly:

“Hello Eric, the property owners have requested another inspector for this project. Please contact the town hall for inspections and questions. Thank you.”

- This confirms that Fab is not the inspector assigned to our project and that inspections were to be handled by another inspector through Town Hall (i.e., MRI).

Exhibit E – Recap of September 9, 2025 Conversation with Peter Rowell (MRI Inspector)

Context: On September 9, 2025, during an on-site inspection at our farm, we spoke directly with Peter Rowell, the MRI inspector assigned to the Town of Barnstead.

Electrical Permit Mishandling

- Our electrician, Eric Marques, hand-delivered an electrical permit application with details requested directly from MRI Inspector (Peter Rowell) on August 11, 2025 to Town Hall.
- On August 12, 2025, this application was emailed to Mr. Rowell from Town Hall. Mr. Rowell confirmed this in an in person meeting with us on 9/9.
- Mr. Rowell confirmed that he reviewed the application and told Building Inspector, Fab Cusson, it looked good and was ready to be signed.

- Despite this, the permit was never issued to us. We were later told it was “lost.” Electrician, Eric Marques, contact Karen Montgomery numerous times asking for an update and was told “it wasn’t ready”
- Eric Marques visits Town Hall to pick up the electric permit and was told the permit was “lost” and that he would have to resubmit a new one.
- Eric Marques resubmitted the application on September 5, 2025, which still remains unsigned as of today.
- On September 9, 2025, Eric was again denied his permit at Town Hall without explanation. Town Administrator Karen Montgomery stated the permit must go before the Board of Selectmen.

Improper Deference to Recused Inspector and Selectmen

- Mr. Rowell admitted that he discussed our permit with Fab Cusson, despite Mr. Cusson’s documented recusal from our projects.
- He admitted he had not reviewed the MRI contract and did not know the scope of authority he was hired under.

Key Concerns

- MRI Contract Authority: MRI was contracted to assume all authority normally vested in Town personnel. Mr. Rowell has not been empowered to exercise this authority.
- Recusal Ignored: Mr. Cusson continues to be involved in reviewing and signing permits despite multiple written recusal statements.
- Board of Selectmen Involvement: Requiring Selectmen approval for building permits is not supported by RSA 155-A or the MRI contract.
- Public Record Issue: The disappearance of our August 11, 2025 permit application constitutes a loss of a public record under RSA 91-A.

Conclusion

Mr. Rowell’s statements confirm that MRI is not being permitted to exercise its contractual authority, that a recused inspector and the Selectmen are improperly involved, and that our project has suffered unnecessary delays and harm due to these procedural failures.

Exhibit F – Town Attorney Email Confirming MRI Oversight

Date: August 16, 2024

From: Attorney Matthew H. Upton (Drummond Woodsum)

To: Attorney Barton L. Mayer

CC: Karen Montgomery, Town Administrator

Key Excerpt from Attorney Upton's Email

“...we would like to bring in the person from MRI to oversee the project and the renewal of the building permit. It would be my suggestion that we have the person from MRI contact your client directly to ensure no delays in the back and forth... The person from MRI can also talk about any inspections that may be needed now or in the future. I don't want us to get to the occupancy permit stage and have problems. Better to get everyone on the same page.”

Summary

- The Town's own legal counsel directed that MRI should oversee the project and renewal of the building permit.
 - Attorney Upton specifically recommended that MRI work directly with us to prevent delays and ensure a smooth permitting process.
 - He also confirmed MRI should handle all inspections, present and future.
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Why This Matters

1. Direct Relationship with MRI
 - This confirms the Town's attorney recognized MRI was to act as the primary inspector and point of contact for our project.
2. Permit Oversight

- MRI was assigned responsibility for overseeing the renewal of our building permit, not Fab Cusson or the Board of Selectmen.

3. Prevention of Delays

- The attorney explicitly noted the importance of avoiding “delays in the back and forth,” yet we continue to face delays, missing paperwork, and conflicting authority.

Conclusion

The Town’s attorney confirmed in writing that MRI was supposed to be empowered as the inspector of record, overseeing our permit renewals and inspections. The continued involvement of a recused inspector and the insertion of the Board of Selectmen into permit approvals directly contradicts this legal guidance.