

BOS Meeting – September 16, 2025

Opening Statement

Good evening, members of the Board. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to speak tonight regarding our barn project at 948 Province Road.

I hope all of you have received my letter dated 9/10/25. The Town has not responded to us in writing. That is why we believe it is important to present this matter openly in a public forum.

Background & Context

Our barn project has been caught in a web of delays, confusion, and conflicting authority. This has not only stalled progress but has also eroded our trust in the Town's permitting process.

Why We Requested Fab's Recusal

One of the topics I'd like to discuss is Fab's recusal. I want to remind the Board why we requested his recusal in the first place.

On March 7, 2024, during a Planning Board meeting, Fab's conduct was unprofessional and intimidating, to the point that I feared retaliation with our current project at our farm. The very next day, I documented the incident with the Town Administrator and formally requested his recusal from any inspections related to our property or business. This was done to preserve impartiality, fairness, and our rights as applicants.

After recusing himself, Fab did not step aside quietly. Instead, he took to social media to write at length about us and our property. His statements were not neutral. They were personal attacks, made while he still held the authority of the Building Inspector's position. His own words prove extreme prejudice and a breach of professional code of conduct.

How could anyone believe that Fab could fairly perform inspections or reviews on our property after this? The reality is he cannot. His continued involvement in our permits, even after recusal, is inappropriate and erodes our trust in the Town's handling of our applications.

There are 4 Key Issues

1. MRI Contract Authority

- The Town's contract with MRI states their inspector assumes all authority normally vested in the Town's personnel.
- MRI Inspector Peter Rowell therefore has full legal authority to review, approve, and sign permits.
- The Town's own attorney confirmed MRI was supposed to oversee our project directly, handle all inspections "now or in the future," and work with us to avoid delays.

2. Improper Involvement of the Selectmen & Lack of Transparency

- We have been told numerous times that our permits are "going before the Board of Selectmen" (including in a recorded meeting with our MRI inspector).
- Routine building permits under RSA 155-A are not supposed to go before the Board. Yet our electrician was told the permit must be approved by the Selectmen. This adds unnecessary delay and politicizes what should be an administrative process.
- At the same time, if matters are directed to the Board, they must appear on a public agenda and be documented in the meeting minutes under RSA 91-A. Our permit has not appeared on any agenda nor been recorded in the minutes. This lack of transparency is a serious procedural issue.

3. Permit Mishandling & Lost Records

- On August 11th, our electrician submitted an updated electrical permit application as requested by MRI.
- MRI reviewed the application on 8/12, and as stated by the MRI inspector, deemed it "ready to sign," yet it was never issued. Mr. Rowell explained that he communicated with Fab Cusson to issue the permit. We were later told it was lost after repeated attempts to get the permit.
- The disappearance of this permit constitutes a violation of RSA 91-A regarding public records.

4. Communication Barriers

- We have been blocked from direct communication with MRI, even though MRI is the contracted inspector of record.
 - This contradicts the Town Attorney's advice that MRI should work directly with us to avoid delays.
 - Instead, this restriction has created confusion, inconsistency, and wasted time.
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Impact on Our Project

These issues have real consequences.

- Our electrician had to resubmit an electrical permit application a second time due to the first application being lost.
- The resubmission was routed to the Board of Selectmen, even though it had already been approved by the MRI inspector.
- The permit was ultimately signed by the recused building inspector, not the contracted inspector of record.
- Our project has been delayed, our costs increased, and our confidence in this process diminished.

This is not how the permitting process is supposed to work.

Pattern of Concern

When you step back, a clear pattern emerges:

- MRI is empowered by contract but blocked in practice.
- A recused inspector continues to be involved despite his public recusal and damaging social media posts against us.
- The Board of Selectmen is inserted into approvals where they have no statutory role.
- A public record — our August 11 permit application — has gone missing.

This is not just one mistake. It is a mesh of procedural failures that harm both us and the Town's credibility. It also feels retaliatory, given the history of Fab's conduct toward us.

Requested Resolution

Tonight, we respectfully ask this Board to:

1. Clarify that MRI is the sole authority for permits and inspections under the Town's contract.
2. Confirm that Mr. Cusson, having recused himself, will have no further involvement in our projects.
3. Affirm that routine building permits will be processed administratively by the inspector of record, as required under RSA 155-A, without unnecessary involvement of the Board of Selectmen. This ensures compliance with state law while preserving transparency under RSA 91-A.
4. Ensure that Town Hall procedures are corrected so that applications cannot be lost, delayed, or politicized.
5. Provide us with a written response to our concerns within five business days of this meeting.

These are reasonable requests, firmly grounded in law, contract, and fairness.

Closing Statement

In closing, we are not here to make this personal. We are here because our project — and the Town's integrity — deserve a fair, lawful, and transparent permitting process.

We look forward to your clarification and your commitment to correcting these issues so that this project, and others like it, can move forward without unnecessary obstruction.

