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August 16, 2011

Rochester Board of Selectmen
One Constitution Way
Rochester, MA 02770

Re: Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals

Dear Members of the Board:

It is with much regret that I submit my letter of resignation as chairman and/or member of the Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals.

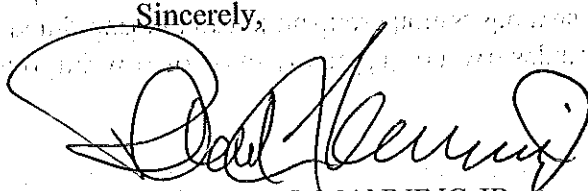
After my recent re-appointment, I went out of my way to go to Town Hall on two separate occasions to get sworn in by the Town Clerk. Despite this being during normal business hours, she was not there. Having a meeting scheduled (and being close to not having a quorum), I made arrangements to have the Town Clerk come to our meeting to swear in the three members so that we could proceed in due course. Despite written confirmation that she would be there, she did not appear due to some personal commitment, and I had to cancel the meeting. In the ensuing discussions I had to deal with denials of this commitment, and then be told that after conferring with Town Counsel it was okay to proceed with being sworn in. When I expressed my displeasure with her obvious indifference to the functioning of my Board what I was told was that I could come to Town Hall on some Monday evening to be sworn in at her convenience or the board members could come an hour early to the meeting to be sworn.

As a *volunteer* member of this board for over a decade, I am completely frustrated by the lack of cooperation and the apathy of this *paid* town employee. I have wasted a tremendous amount of time simply trying to get to the point that my board can provide its mandated service and I will not waste any more.

There are several pending petitions that need to be heard by the Board and the townspeople deserve to have them promptly addressed. There also is at least one major issue pending before the board (i.e. the proposed asphalt plant), therefore, you should seek out a replacement for me as quickly as possible.

Best of luck and thank for the opportunity to serve the town,

Sincerely,



RICHARD J. MANNING JR.