Mayor McCabe distorts record on Winsted lawsuit

2/1/92

Editor of The Register Citizen:

To set the record straight:

Mayor McCabe continues to blame Selectmen Miller, Sullivan and Gauger for the filing of the lawsuit, Kelsey v. McCabe. I was one of ten citizens who was in the Office of the Community Lawyer the morning after the Nov. 18, 1991 vote to remove the town manager.

Our purpose was to determine whether we could impeach the selectmen responsible or overturn the elections or reverse the decision regarding the town manager. We also needed guidance to understand the Charter. While we were there, numerous citizens were phoning the community lawyer's office asking what could be done.

The lawsuit was not discussed until it became clear that no amount of citizen action would change the minds of the "fabulous four," including an advisory petition signed by over 1,600 members of this community.

We did not "lose" the lawsuit. The judge stated in her decision that the citizens should decide whether the Board of Selectmen should have the absolute power to fire the town manager and it was up to the people of the town, not the court, to change the charter.

The judge did not realize that we have to put up with this board for one year, nine months and counting, and with more 4-3 votes, which I'm sure will continue.

I urge citizens to call Mad River Television and ask them to rerun, in its entirety, the tape of the meeting of Jan. 28, and the argument which showed the unprofessional conduct of the Mayor of this town accusing Miller, Gauger and Sullivan of instituting the lawsuit, when the citizens did it. The community lawyer did not come to us, we went to her.

If Mayor McCabe is going to call Miller, Gauger and Sullivan liars, I feel the community must see the tape of this meeting and the argument that occurred in the hallway.

We did not lose; the citizens had a learning experience and when you learn you don't lose.

Ruth Wheeler
Winsted