

Riiska certifies 1991 petition

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zens have to double check and watch everything that elected officials are supposed to be doing," Mills said. "I think it's really deplorable that we have to check and be subjected to something like this."

Miller was happy to hear about Riiska's action.

"I'm glad he did it," Miller said. "He finally woke up."

Miller said Riiska's action will save him money because he was going to hire a lawyer. Miller claimed Riiska's failure to certify

the petition was a violation of civil rights. He said he planned to sue for damages and legal fees.

"I'm glad it's been certified because the people should be listened to," Selectman Brian W. Sullivan said Wednesday.

LaVoie believes now that the petition is certified, it sets in motion the process to bring the benefit to a vote.

"If the town attorney is reviewing what to do next with the petition it seems logical he'd have to look at the June 28, 1991, opinion of the former town attorney

where he interpreted the charter to say that citizens' challenge to the action of the board was not permitted. He'll have to determine whether he agrees or not," LaVoie said. She said she would share any research she has done with Nelligan.

In an opinion letter in December, Nelligan recommended Riiska should certify all petitions in the future, and let selectmen determine the legality of a petition. Nelligan did note Riiska's actions may not have been wrong because no statute governs the issue.