



Statement of the Town of Hanover

Harold Watt, known affectionately to generations of Hanoverians as ‘Yellow Man,’ is a local legend and a local treasure. The Town of Hanover – both through its elected leaders and its appointed managers - understands how much the story of Mr. Watt is woven into the fabric of our community.

For that reason, we have taken steps to assist Mr. Watt in making his property safe and habitable so that he can remain in his home for as long as he chooses. This has been an ongoing process to which the town has been committed to for some time. It has been a process where we have strived to work with Mr. Watt while maintaining his privacy. This past summer, the Town of Hanover facilitated and funded a cleanup project with Hanover High School students to assist Mr. Watt in a group cleanup of his property. While the project was not ultimately successful, it demonstrates one example of the resolve of the residents and leaders of our community to assist Mr. Watt.

It is that commitment – to our community and to Mr. Watt himself – that led the town to seek the assistance of a court-appointed receiver to help manage the property at 840 Washington Street. Our interest was, is, and will be simply assisting Harold, his representatives, and his family to clean up the potential hazards on the property. The decision on whether to remain in his home is one that rests with Mr. Watt and his team; the town will actively support whatever decision is made.

The speculation and theories swirling around social media are false and not helpful. This Board, our Town Manager, and our staff are transparent and accessible. We encourage people with suggestions and concerns – on this issue or any other – to reach out to us directly through official channels and be a positive and productive part of the process.

We thank those of you who have reached out. We will continue to be committed to allowing Mr. Watt to remain an important part of Hanover's history.

- Presented at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Nov. 21, 2016