

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE
March 21, 2023

Attending: Markey Burke, Joel Rosenhaus, Pauline DiCesare, Joan Bradford, Susan Rufo, Anne Gilbert, Julie Secord (COA Director), Carol Martin (Select Board liaison), and Maura Schneider (outreach coordinator of COA).

The meeting was called to order by Markey Burke at 10:00 AM. There was no public comment. The minutes of the October 26, 2022 meeting of the committee were approved as written. It was noted that almost everyone on the committee is now on the town email system.

Susan Rufo updated us on the status of senior tax relief programs for the state that are pending. One bill that needs to be passed by the state legislature will set up a pilot program in a couple of towns with a broad range of seniors to try out a tax deferral program that could help seniors. Right now each town sets a rate of interest for those using the tax deferral program. This rate must be voted on each year and can be changed. The deferral program is in place until all back taxes are paid, or the deceased senior's estate is settled. The town assessor calculates the amount of money owed. There are very few Wayland residents who use this program.

We wanted to know if WayCam could offer discounts to seniors on their fees. They are considering a discount for seniors already in help programs, but it has not been decided. There was also a question of a WayCam discount for people that are part of Comcast or Verizon.

We looked at a tax relief program that Westford offers to lower property taxes for seniors who have qualified for the Circuit Breaker program based on the value of their home, other assets, and income. Susan Rufo offered to do a couple of examples of the concept to see if it might be usable in Wayland.

Our state senator, James Eldridge, will be at COA on March 22nd to talk to people who would like to come to meet him. Our two state representatives, Carmine Gentile and David Linsky, will be coming to COA next week on March 29th to talk to people as well.

The new COA building near the town center is still in the planning stages. The project will be going out to bid soon, but the building will probably not be ready for use for a couple of years.

The next meeting of the committee will be Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned by Markey at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Gilbert (Clerk)