

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE
October 26, 2022

Attending: Markey Burke, Pauline DiCesare, Joan Bradford, Joel Rosenhaus, Susan Rufo, Anne Gilbert, and Julie Secord (Director of COA). Maura Snyder, a new member of the COA staff, was an observer.

The meeting was called to order by Markey Burke at 10:05 AM. The minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting of the committee were approved as written. The annual report to the town for our committee has been turned in.

Julie Secord told us again that all members of the committee must use our town email addresses. Anyone not able to use it must get help from the town IT department.

Pauline DiCesare feels that any changes in the state tax deferral laws must be made at the state level rather than as a local option with help from one or more of our state legislators. Susan Rufo said she would contact one or more of our state legislators concerning this issue. Wayland now charges 4% interest for any deferred taxes, which goes to 16% on the date of the person's death. We feel that the family should be given some time to settle the estate before the tax rate goes so high.

Notice went out to all seniors who have taken advantage of the Circuit Breaker tax relief benefit in the past. They must fill in the necessary forms and file with their state income taxes in April. Susan Rufo is afraid that not everyone gets this information who might qualify for the state and town tax benefit. We discussed ways that the town and COA make an effort to inform people. Brian Lynch of the Mass. Department of Revenue will again be presenting state tax relief benefits at a COA meeting.

Susan Rufo asked if we should put any requests for seniors into the town for money the town has received from Covid relief. Julie told us of requests she is making for the COA. Another idea discussed is to ask WayCam for a reduced fee for seniors for the annual fee to be charged for their system and information. Susan offered to write a letter requesting this lower-fee benefit for seniors. Susan also asked if there will be any programs to help seniors with power and heat this winter. Maura Snyder told us of programs that she is aware of. There is an article in the COA monthly newsletter about these options.

The next meeting of our committee will be on January 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM. The meeting was adjourned by Markey at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Gilbert
(Clerk)