

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

December 12, 2018

Attending: Linwood Bradford, Joan Bradford, Pauline DiCesare, Steve Colella, Anne Gilbert, and Julie Secord (COA Director). Mary Antes (Board of Selectmen) attended the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Linwood Bradford at 7:00 PM. There was no public comment. The suggestion was made to change our meetings to mornings. With concurrence from everyone we voted to change our meetings to the third Wednesday of every other month at 9:00 AM.

The minutes of the August 8, 2018 meeting of our committee were read and approved as written.

There has not been a meeting of MCOA. Julie had gotten some information from that group about their work, and she will forward it to us.

The Valor Act card is still not finalized. The assessor's office oversees this program and needs to approve the wording of the card. Julie will get the card set up based on her information and then have it approved by or corrected by the assessors. This card should be available with the other tax relief cards.

Julie reported that Bruce Morgan, Director of Assessing, gave a talk to COA about the tax relief options available to residents. The tax work-off program is going well with 40 people being able to earn minimum wage for up to 65 hours per year. The Valor Act is available, but not widely used.

Pauline DiCesare reported that she had talked to a person in the assessor's office in Sudbury about their senior tax relief program. The resident has to fill out a lengthy application to show that they qualify for the program, and the Board of Assessors then has to approve the application. It takes quite a lot of work to fill in the application for the benefit which might be less than our Circuit Breaker program with the town match. Our committee decided to keep the programs that we have in place now.

The next meeting of our committee will be Wednesday, February 20th, at 9:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Gilbert (Clerk)