

**ELDERLY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**June 27, 2005 at 11:30 am**  
**Town Hall**

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*Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2005:*

Present: Claire Badstubner (Chairman), Catherine Drouin (Vice-Chairman), Karen Boutin, H. Stuart Woodard, Cheryl Littlefield, Carol Madore (Tax Assessor), Elizabeth Burns (Municipal Agent).

Meeting was called to order at 11:45am by Claire Badstubner, Chairman.

A motion to accept the minutes from May 23, 2005, as submitted, was made by Karen Boutin and seconded by Cheryl Littlefield.

The first order of business was to further discuss the feasibility for Elderly Tax Relief and the steps needed to prepare a proposal.

Elizabeth informed the committee that she has met with the Board of Selectman and it has been approved that the Elderly Commission can present their report to them at the January, 2006 meeting.

Elizabeth handed out yellow flyers (drafts) announcing the Credit & Tax Deferral Forum scheduled for September 15, 2005. Two sessions are scheduled – morning and evening to accommodate all interested individuals who may want to attend the forum.

A brief discussion on where flyers may be posted/presented around town: town hall offices, supermarket and posting it on the town's website.

The committee discussed whether or not to have interested individuals call Human Services to "register" for the forum. Registering individuals will give the committee members an idea of the number of potential attendees. "Registering" would involve getting a person's name, address and phone number.

Karen also recommended adding age group and eligibility requirements directly on the flyer. Betsy will revise the flyer to add "65 and over" and "qualified totally disabled".

Carol also recommended the addition of "local program" into the wording of the flyer so that individuals will realize initially that this is separate from the state program.

In regards to other comparable town programs, Carol has not received Tax Deferral/Credit information from two of the four towns requested. Two have sent her information; she should have the remaining two towns by the July meeting.

Carol has agreed to send everyone each town's information (prior to the July meeting) so that committee members can review them for discussion at the next meeting.

Betsy and Carol are planning on having information to pass out at the forum sessions, but this information will probably not be available to anyone ahead of time. Carol is formulating a Q & A brochure and Betsy, along with committee members, will give input to an "information sheet/handout" as well.

Discussed what types of questions may be asked by the public:

- How will this affect the equity of my home?
- What does a deferral mean for me in the future?
- How will this affect my income & taxes?
- How does this affect the future sale of my home?
- How does it affect my credit rating/report?

As a group, the committee reviewed potential outcomes of the proposal. Betsy reviewed the process of bringing the proposal through the steps eventually to a vote. Reminded committee members that the proposal could be turned down through Board of Selectman meetings, public hearings or votes. Betsy reminded group that there is no guarantee how far this will go.

Cathy also expressed a concern that this may not be feasible with all the budget defeats. A brief discussion on how the budget may affect this proposed program ensued.

Regarding publicity on the forum – Suggestion was made to put the flyer as an insert in the Rockville Reminder. Also to run story (through interview) in the Journal Inquirer, Hartford Courant and Rockville Reminder. Betsy said the committee will also utilize the "rolling advertising" on Cox Cable. A mention of sending the flyer to "qualified people" directly would be helpful (Carol has list).

Carol informed the committee that she has received 24 new homeowner files and has lost 8 files for reasons such as sales or death.

Carol also mentioned that the group could consider doing an "asset test". Currently, Somers uses this method to weigh the non-income generating assets of a homeowner.

Carol also informed the committee that Suffield uses a very simplified program – they do not have applications - an individual's qualification is based on the fact if they are eligible for the state program – if so, they automatically get a local Tax Credit of a given amount (i.e. \$100.00).

More input from Carol's review of other towns' programs proposes the question if there would be enough funds to do this program – the Board of Finance would decide what money is available and then it is dispersed to qualified individuals from there.

Betsy informed the group that this Tax Deferral/Credit program may make some elderly homeowners truly consider their income and how they “stretch” it out for other larger assets (i.e. motor home, vacation home). Also, some may begin to consider “moving” their assets to another family member.

Betsy informed the committee that if the town adopts any proposal, it could potentially be in place in July, 2007.

Stu mentioned that he spoke with John Parda and that he may make our next meeting for input. Karen will give Carol his e-mail address at which time Carol will contact John for an official invite and send him some information.

Goals for the next meeting are to have reviewed other towns’ programs prior to the meeting so that a discussion can begin in order to piece together a proposal for East Windsor.

New Business: Committee reviewed scheduled meeting dates for July, 2005 through June, 2006. Dates will be submitted to Town Clerk for posting by Christine Pellegrini (recording secretary). Everyone agreed that the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 11:30am is still good.

Claire asked the committee if we would like to notify charter review that we would like to add 2 more members to the Elderly Commission panel for 2006/2007. Betsy commented that she was not sure if it would be an ordinance or charter change. After a brief discussion, it was decided that this is something to think about for the future, however, the 5 member panel does seem to be a good number to work together with.

The next meeting will be July 25, 2005 at 11:30am at Town Hall.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Karen Boutin at 12:40pm. and seconded by Stu Woodard.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Pellegrini  
Recording Secretary