

SENIOR OUTREACH COMMITTEE
9/25/2008
MEETING MINUTES

The Senior Outreach Committee, a subcommittee of the Town Council met on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 8:00 AM in Room 205 of the Municipal Building.

Attendees: Committee Members: Scott Mason, Joe McGann, Judy Pfeffer
Other Attendees: Karen Alves, Senior Center Director: Bob Fahey, Veterans Agent; Kevin Doyle, Director of Assessing; and Maxine Kinhart, Assistant to Town Administrator

Assessor's Office staff was able to determine, using the Census Data from the Town Clerk that there are 2,730 senior who own and occupy homes in Franklin representing 70% of the 3,889 senior residents. There are 2,240 homes owned by seniors with 1,750 of those homes owned and occupied by a single senior.

There are 422 seniors who own and occupy their residences aged 66 to 69. (373 units)
There are 1168 senior who own and occupy their residences aged 70 and over. (873 units)

Discussion items included:

Local Option Clause 41 C ½ Property Tax Exemption for Seniors age 70 and older who have lived in community for 5 years and state for 10 years. There is a maximum income, but no asset limit. Exemption is equal to 5% of the average assessed value of residential parcels. Can be increased by the legislative body to up to 20% of average assessed value of residential property and to reduce age to 65 and reduce residency requirements to five years. Clause has to be voted by referendum. Taxpayers make up the difference.

Other options in the short term discussed. Need to get information out to seniors that they are eligible for tax relief if they are low income. Senior Center has had good luck using Bob Fahey and volunteers to assist seniors in getting their tax rebate checks. Bob helps people with filling out forms for things like fuel assistance.

It was decided that Kevin Doyle would draft a letter to be sent to every senior household detailing what tax reduction programs are available in simple format. Letter to be from Board of Assessors and will include language that states the letter will be followed up with a phone call from the Senior Center. Need to do ASAP to get relief for February bill.

Next Meeting Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 8:00 AM in Room 205.