

**Meeting Minutes
Senior Outreach Committee
Sub-Committee of the Town Council**

August 4, 2009

A meeting was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 9:15 AM. Attending were Judy Pfeffer, Scott Mason, Karen Alves, Kevin Doyle, Bob Fahey, and Maxine Kinhart

There was a discussion of last years meeting and plan to increase outreach to senior home owners in Franklin turned out. Through work of the Assessor's department with census information from the Town Clerk, it was determined that a total of 873 households were identified as owned and occupied by persons 70 years of age or older.

From 2008 to 2009, the number of exemptions increased from 46 to 67 for Clause 17D and from 69 to 94 for Clause 41C. Cases of deferred taxes for persons 65 or over dropped from 2 to 0. An actual increase of 18.4%.

Bob Fahey suggested that there are 6 widows of veterans who are currently receiving property abatements under section 22E that would be qualified to receive a higher exemption under section 22D. (\$1,000 vs. full exeption for 5 years then maximum of \$2500 there after) There is no cost to the town for this increase as it is reimbursed by the State. Bob just learned of this at a seminar that he attended. The Assessors will discuss at their meeting and Kevin will follow up with DOR. Will try to determine if these widows can apply for the higher exemption retroactively.

It was decided to add a paragraph to last years outreach letter about the availability of Bob Fahey as Veterans' agent and available resources to veterans and their families.

It was decided to do the outreach again this year by including information in the upcoming senior newsletter, then sending the exemption information letter with the application to Karen Alves mailing list of 2600 Seniors. Karen will hold a seminar in October. Karen estimated that the cost to mail would be approximately \$400 to \$500.

A separate letter will be sent to the 1300 veterans in Franklin. Bob Fahey will get updated census list from Town Clerk.

Committee will meet again in late October.

Recorded by,

Maxine Kinhart