

**Senior Tax Relief Committee
Council on Aging
June 12, 2012**

Committee members present: Steve Colella, Rebecca MacGregor, Lillian Mills, Anne Gilbert, Pauline diCesare, and Pat Nelson. Committee Members not present: Kara Harvey and Bill Zellen. Also attending: Julie Secord, COA Director..

Items discussed:

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as written.
2. We noted that the representatives of the state legislature have passed a bill that will allow Sudbury to offer a property tax exemption to qualified, elderly homeowners who have lived in Sudbury for many years. The tax burden would then be shifted to taxpayers of higher assessed properties. The senate will next have to pass the law as a step in the process to allow Sudbury the ability to do this. We will be watching to see how the idea works for Sudbury.
3. We discussed how best to get the word out to seniors in Wayland to encourage them to apply for the tax relief that Wayland offers for seniors who qualify. We mentioned putting a notice in the trifold piece sent out with our tax bills. Julie was going to look into that for the committee.
4. We selected a slate of officers for our committee that is required by the town. The officers are: Chair - Rebecca MacGregor, Vice Chair - Steve Colella, Clerk - Anne Gilbert.
5. We discussed the classification alternatives that the Board of Selectmen are looking at for the FY 2012 tax rate, focusing primarily on Granting a Residential Exemption. We looked at the chart that was in the report to see which homeowner would be given a tax exemption, the way it would spread the taxes determined by the value of each house. Some people would pay less property tax, others would pay more. We would have to find out the effects of this idea on the seniors in Wayland to see if we should support the concept.
6. Pauline reported that the reason that we may not get involved with the DPW fees is because our charter is to look into tax issues, not fees.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10. Our next meeting is scheduled for August 14th at noon.