

**SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE**  
**Council on Aging**  
**August 14, 2012**

Committee members present: Steve Colella, Rebecca MacGregor, Lillian Mills, Bill Zellen, Anne Gilbert. Committee members not present: Pat Nelson, Kara Harvey, Pauline DiCesare. Also attending: Julie Secord (COA Director), Ellen Brideau (Director of Assessing).

Public Comment: Don Buston attended the meeting to observe our meeting for a project that he is working on.

Items discussed.

1. Julie Secord mentioned that the COA is having a meeting on Thursday, Oct. 4, 10:30-11:30 to present the tax relief programs available to Wayland seniors. It will be open to the public.
2. Ellen Brideau told us about how her department receives the real estate values on December 1st of the year and then makes the first estimate of the tax rate. Commercial and residential rates are not differentiated in Wayland. Massachusetts law allows a shift of up to 20% of the tax burden to non-owner-occupied properties. Wayland is considering adopting a residential exemption to relieve owner-occupied properties. (Reference Board of Selectmen classification hearing on December 12, 2011.) For our committee to determine whether the shift in value would be beneficial to seniors, we would have to look at the assessment reports and the census. Ellen is looking into a way to merge the assessment report data with the census data so that we will be able to review the property values with the age of property owners.
3. Wayland supports the state programs for Senior Exemptions and Circuit Breakers with matching funds for qualified seniors. Wayland also offer tax relief of up to \$500.00 for seniors who volunteer in COA programs.
4. Rebecca handed out an article on Sudbury's tax relief plan for seniors. She wants us to read the article before the next meeting so that we can discuss it.
5. The minutes of our June meeting were handed out. Bill Zellen recommended better wording for item #2 on Sudbury's tax relief plan. The minutes were approved as corrected.
6. Bill Zellen offered to go to the next meeting of the Mass. COA as our liaison.
7. Bill Zellen also suggested that information about property tax relief and exemptions should go to the different condo associations in town to be passed on

to their residents. Julie said she would send out the information after getting contact information from Bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, at noon