

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

May 13, 2015

Attending: Linwood Bradford, Joan Bradford, Rebecca MacGregor, and Anne Gilbert. Also attending was Julie Secord, Director of Council on Aging. Committee members absent from the meeting were Pauline DiCesare and Steve Colella.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Rebecca MacGregor.

There was no public comment.

The minutes of the March 2, 2015 meeting of the committee were approved as amended.

Linwood and Joan Bradford reported on a meeting of the Property Tax Relief Task Force that they had attended on May 11. The task force is hoping to get a wider range of representatives from across the state to share ideas about tax relief and create a list of contacts to help get more things done. The state is looking into new legislation to give a tax break to families who add space onto their homes to take care of a senior family member. The tax relief would be only for the life of the senior family member and would be capped at \$500.00 annually. This law would have to be approved by a town as a local option. Some towns allow homeowners who are 65 years of age or older who meet certain income and asset guidelines to defer up to 100% of their annual property taxes. As required by law, deferred taxes accumulate with simple interest of 3.5% as a lien on their property until it is sold or the owner is deceased. At the time of death the interest rate increases to 16% until paid in full. Wayland allows this.

We went over the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit information card that Don Buston and Ellen Brideau have been working on. We hope to get this piece ready soon and then work on some others.

Julie reported on the Valor Act that is meant to help military veterans of any age with a tax relief work program to help them with their property taxes. This is a work in progress.

We discussed information from our state representatives to our letter sent to them in March about tax relief for seniors. Carmine Gentile is working to present our proposal at the state house. Alice Peisch would like to meet with us to discuss it. We set the meeting for June 24, 2015 at 8:30 AM to meet with her at the COA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Gilbert (Clerk)