

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

August 26, 2015

Attending: Rebecca MacGregor, Joan Bradford, Linwood Bradford, Julie Secord, Pauline DiCesare, and Anne Gilbert.

Not attending: Steve Colella

The meeting was called to order by Rebecca MacGregor at 7:05 PM. There was no public comment.

The minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting were approved as amended at the June 24th meeting. The minutes of the June 24, 2015 meeting were discussed, amended, and approved as amended.

The Bradfords let us know that the next meeting of MCOA Property Tax Force will be on August 31, and they plan to attend. We talked about the need to have sufficient time built into the property tax deferral law to allow the increase in interest rate from 3% to 16% to be in line with the estate tax return time limit of 9 months. Now the higher interest rate is put in place at the time of the senior's death. The family needs time to sell the house and/or get the estate in order.

Rebecca heard from Ann Peisch's legislative aide, Molly Parsons, that the brochures that were produced by the Secretary of the Commonwealth have been updated by the Department of Revenue and can be produced for us again. She sent a copy of the brochure for us to see.

Julie Secord told us that the Valor Act is in place, but does not have as many applicants as expected. More may be done to promote the act for people in town. Julie also mentioned wanting to have a brochure made available for the circuit breaker and Wayland's match program. We discussed trying to get information to tax preparers in this area who could mention this option to clients who might qualify. Julie also mentioned possibly having a senior in the property tax work off program help with that project.

We voted to have our committee begin three year terms with staggered terms for existing members of the committee as follows: Pauline DiCesare and Linwood Bradford – 3 year terms, Rebecca MacGregor and Joan Bradford – 2 year terms, and Steve Colella and Anne Gilbert – 1 year terms.

The next meeting of our committee will be October 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Anne Gilbert (Clerk)