

WAYLAND SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE  
October 12, 2016

Attendees: Rebecca MacGregor (Chair), Joan Bradford, Linwood Bradford, Steve Colella, Pauline DiCesare, Julie Secord (COA Director)

Absent: Anne Gilbert

1. The meeting was called to order by Rebecca at 7:00 pm; there was no public comment.
2. After being informed by Anne and Julie that Ellen Brideau (Board of Assessors Director) had reviewed the draft minutes section on Ellen's presentation of the newly enacted tax relief plan in the town of Sudbury, the Senior Tax Relief Committee reviewed and approved the draft minutes of 8 June 2016 meeting, as written.
3. The minutes of the committee's 10 August 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved, as written.
4. The committee reviewed an e-mail from Lina DeRosa and David Klein, co-chairs of MCOA Senior Tax Relief Committee; their proposals to the state Senate and House are unlikely to pass in 2016 but are hopeful for 2017. These bills, S1467: will allow heirs of seniors & veterans one year before rates on deferred estate taxes can be raised, and H4030: will establish a local option for a "means-tested" senior property tax exemption similar to the Sudbury plan. Our representatives, Joan & Linwood, plan to attend the next MCOA meeting of 17 October 2016.
5. Rebecca discussed changes in rules for reverse mortgages nationwide to prevent predatory lenders from taking homes away from seniors. That is something for our committee to consider as a future project.
6. Pauline wants our committee to look into Home Rule Petitions for Town Meeting to increase income limits for 41C elderly exemption. Current income limits for Clause 41C exemption is \$20,000 for single homeowners and \$30,000 for married (couples) homeowners (excluding value of home). Federal and Mass. poverty levels for 2016 are \$14,850 -> \$30,000 for single persons and \$20,025 -> \$45,000 for married couples. The current exemption amount allowed by the state is **\$500.00 (unchanged for 30 years)!!!** Wayland currently matches the state exemption with another \$500.00.
7. Update from Julie: Ellen Brideau (BOA Dir.) will host a public forum on Wednesday, 30 November 2016, to review and explain the statutory exemptions. Notice of time and date will be publicized. Committee members plan to attend.

8. The committee reviewed and approved Rebecca's annual report, as written, to the Board of Selectmen.

9. The next meeting of our committee is scheduled for Wednesday, 14 December 2016 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Colella, Acting Clerk