

Senior Citizen Tax Relief Committee
Durham, CT

Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2006

The Senior Citizen Tax Relief Committee met for the second time at the Durham Public Library at 7:30pm on Monday, October 23, 2006.

Committee members present were: Charles Bogen, Ron Capozzi, Liz Conroy, Martin French, Lainy Melvin, Charles Mik and Carolyn Wallach.

Members absent were: Howard Kelley and Rosemarie Naples.

Also present: Dan Lehet.

The meeting was called to order by Martin French at 7:35pm. Martin French motioned to accept the agenda for tonight's meeting. Seconded by Ron Capozzi. Approved unanimously. See attached.

The first order of business was election of officers. Ron Capozzi was nominated for chairperson by Carolyn Wallach. No other nominations were received from the floor. Ron was elected unanimously. Liz Conroy was nominated for secretary and also elected unanimously. Discussion ensued regarding the need for other officers. We decided we didn't with the understanding that Martin French would stand in as chair if Ron Capozzi is not able to be present.

The group agreed to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30 pm in the library.

Martin French moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Seconded by Carolyn Wallach. Approved unanimously.

We all introduced ourselves and stated why we are part of the committee and what our interests are in the area of senior citizen tax relief. General discussion followed about the desirability of keeping a mixed age population in town for financial as well as sociological reasons.

For the remainder of the meeting we held a general discussion about our mission and the type of information is needed to quantify various options we might develop. Comments were made regarding various tax relief programs in neighboring towns and what sources of information are available about those programs. We discussed inviting Ed Meyer and Ray Kalinowski to share their knowledge about the area of senior citizen

tax relief from the state government's perspective. We also proposed inviting Bill Blass from the Guilford Assessors Office to talk with the committee about the current program in his town. Other major points of discussion included:

- The difficulty of determining how many households with members over 65 exist in Durham and how much they contribute to the town's total tax income.
- Designing a great program doesn't work if senior citizens aren't willing to participate (i.e. e. some deferment programs.)
- The need to quantify the dollar amount of tax burden that might be shifted to taxpayers under 65.
- The availability of state grants.
- The ability of the town to float a bond to finance different types of deferment programs.

Ron Capozzi wrapped up the meeting by proposing an agenda for the next meeting. See attached.

Motion was made to end meeting at 9:00pm. Seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Conroy
Secretary