

Tax Fairness Committee Minutes 10-25-23 Approved

The Lancaster Tax Fairness AD HOC Committee

October 25th 2023

Hybrid Meeting – Zoom and Nashaway Conference Room at the
Lancaster Town Hall



Minutes:

Attendees:

Sheila Casey

Kate Hodges Town Administrator

Denise Hurley

Haidee LaClair

Susan Munyon

Roy Rezac

Debbie Sanders

Dick Trussell

Kate Hodges spoke about what the senior tax exemption program is. She explained what it entailed and What it will take to put it together. She handed out information about 3 different towns in the state that are using the tax exemption as well as other information to be used in our planning for Lancaster.

We then had nominations for officers.

Roy Rezac was nominated for chair and approved.

Susan Munyon was nominated for vice chair and approved.

Denise Hurley was nominated for clerk approved.

We did have a discussion on how to run our meetings.

We collected phone numbers and emails so we are able to have working meetings

Dates for next 4 meetings were set up.

Discussion Points

About 8000 people in the town with different perspectives that we want to represent in a reasonable way.

There was some indication that money for the program might come out of the stabilization fund after all the bills are paid to pay for the program. However, other towns have paid for this program by raising taxes ½% to 2%. Exactly how this program will be funded will depend on our recommendation and the Select Board's Decision

Explanation of the benefits of this program to the town. That's one of the biggest things that we need to do right now. Why is it pro seniors and how can we help the other groups in town to make Unfortunatley, the cost of students to go to the Nashoba and Minuteman is quite high. That's something we need to research what the cost of students are.

There are some programs through the assessor's department, it's income dependent but can help people.

We need to put together all programs available locally statewide.

Actually it is tax profitable to have seniors stay in town as long as practical. This is because if the seniors sell their home, it would most likely be purchased by a family with children and the educational cost are quite high.

So we really want to make sure how to help seniors stay in town. But then again to help people of other groups stay in town as well.

Next Meeting: November 15, 2023