

**Meeting Notes**  
**RTM SENIOR & DISABLED TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE**  
**Sullivan Independence Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm.

Committee Members in attendance: Tom McCarthy, Hank Ference, Mark McDermott, Alex Durrell and Cindy Perham (Cindy arrived at 7:30pm, missed the election)

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary for 2017.

The committee was restructured from 2016, going from seven to five members listed above for 2017.

Chairman – Tom McCarthy, nominated by Alex Durrell, seconded by Hank Ference.  
Approved unanimously.

Vice Chairman – Hank Ference, nominated by Alex Durrell, seconded by Tom McCarthy.  
Approved unanimously.

Secretary – Mark McDermott, nominated by Tom McCarthy, seconded by Alex Durrell.  
Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Minutes for meeting held on 1/24/17 were not available. Tom McCarthy will ask Dru Georgiadis, 2016 secretary, for them to be reviewed at the next meeting.

4. New Business

- a) Short review of proposals considered by Committee in 2016.

Hank Ference, former chairman, reviewed what had been talked about during the meetings in 2016 to help Tom McCarthy understand where the committee was in the process.

Fairfield has one of the most generous Senior & Disabled Tax Relief Programs in the state of Connecticut.

Discussion was held that the tax assessor should attend the meeting to assist in answering any questions or concerns related to the tax code, grand list, demographics of the town, etc. Tom McCarthy will request that Ken Carvel, Interim Tax Assessor, attend the next meeting.

Tom McCarthy presented a graph representing the participation levels in the program over the years. There has been a steady decline for many reasons: death, sold or moved, increased income, etc..

All committee members agreed that the program may need some tweaking to increase the eligibility requirements and sustain participation in the credit program, which is the most used. The Freeze and Deferral programs are not that popular.

Committee members should come to the next meeting prepared with ideas on program improvements.

b) Agree upon a mission statement for 2017, with focus on Article III, of chapter 95 of Town Code.

Mission Statement - Address the two-year decline in credit program participation by seniors and disabled homeowners. Identify causes for decline based upon available data. If appropriate, craft recommendation for careful adjustment(s) to tax code to remedy decline.

5. Public Comment

There was no public in attendance.

6. Consider any other new business presented

Meeting Schedule – March 30, 2017 & April 18, 2017

6. Adjournment

8:26pm, moved by Alex Durrell, seconded by Cindy Perham.