

RTM Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 29, 2023
7:00 pm
2nd Floor Conference room, Old Town Hall
611 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT
Via Webex and in person

The regular meeting of the RTM Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Committee was held via Webex and in the conference room on the second floor of Old Town Hall, 611 Old Post Road on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 7:00 pm in Fairfield, Connecticut.

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order: 7:14 PM**
In attendance: Rep. Cindy Perham (Committee Chair), Rep. Jill Vergara (Committee Vice-Chair), Rep. Mark McDermott, Rep. Hannah Gale (Committee Secretary) No attendees on Webex.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Minutes** of February 15, 2023, Regular Meeting
Motion to approve made by Rep. Perham and seconded by Rep. Vergara. Unanimous approval.
4. **Update on the current Tax Relief application season** – Ross Murray
Email from Mr. Murray that there 48 new and 252 total applications, 371 that typically apply but haven't. Ross said that he is interested in a mailing and has at least \$1,000 for this. He calculated that 1,400 people 65 and older or disabled are not getting notified because they do not read the First Selectwoman's weekly update. He has a list of all eligible over 65 home owners with income under \$100,000 a year.
This may not include disabled. Suggested that Pres. Elder Crocker and Vice Pres. Dan Van Horne should be contacted to see if they can help generate a list for Ross, or just send them the information to disseminate.

Questions for Ross:
 - 1) Does he need physical help
 - 2) Does he want input on a cover letter
 - 3) Does he have enough \$ in budget for these 1,400 people
5. **Marketing** the program more in the next 45 days.
Rep. Perham stated that only about 15 addresses are both affordable housing and are home owners. The mailing is probably the best idea. Rep. McDermott asked if anyone was contacting the 371 people that have not re-applied. Home owners only need to apply

every other year, and so Rep. McDermott thinks that there may be 500 people that do not need to apply this year. Rep. Perham would like to contact condo associations. There may be 30 – 40 of these. Could just mail to the association offices.

6. **Discuss potential formation of Joint Board of Finance/RTM Committee** – and delays in the BOF subcommittee meeting as of this meeting regarding SDTR and the joint committee. Rep. Perham contacted Lori, Craig and Sheila and they have not gotten back to her. Rep. Vergara believe that they are not planning to meet until May.

7. **Old Business**

By the next meeting, April 26, Rep. Perham will work on questions for the questionnaire for the 16 towns that were already polled by phone.

8. **New Business**

Rep. Gale suggested that Rep. Perham send an email to the subcommittee and chair of the BOF that it is this committee's recommendation that the age of deferral be lowered to 65 based on research of 16 town, which is being followed-up with a questionnaire. This will add resilience to the ability of older residents to withstand financial risk in a turbulent banking and financial climate, and will keep the revenue as an asset on the town's ledger. Rep. Perham suggested also adding an appeals process be considered as right now there is none.

9. **Adjourn** 7:59 pm

Submitted April 28, 2023
Hannah Gale, Secretary