

Senior Tax Abatement Ad Hoc Committee  
Town Hall  
Brookfield, CT 06804

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BROOKFIELD, CT

**Minutes of Meeting of July 11, 2018**  
**1:00 pm, Brookfield Senior Center**

JUL 12 2018 12:40 AM  
Andrea DiStephan  
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Present: Chair Betsy McIlvaine, Alice Carolan, Loretta Donovan, Jeff Kass. Absent: Jen Barczak, Mark Ferry, Maura Mangan, Dan Walker.

Mrs. McIlvaine called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

The purpose of this meeting was to hear from senior citizens, and anyone else, about their concerns and suggestions for changes to Brookfield's current senior citizen tax abatement programs.

Members of the Commission on Aging, Emily McPadden and Sue Balla were in attendance, as were Ellen Melville, director of the senior center and Lorraine Kelley, town social services coordinator. No one else was in attendance.

We discussed the particulars of Brookfield's current tax abatement program and how we compared with area towns (Bethel, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown and Ridgefield). In almost all respects, except for a small segment of Newtown's program, Brookfield had the most generous program in terms of money rebated and high income qualifying levels. High income qualifying means that citizens may earn more income and still qualify for our program.

Mrs. McIlvaine said that our guiding principle continued to be the same as the original committee's of 2005:

*To help keep seniors in their homes by providing a fair and equitable method to help them meet their property tax obligations, mindful of the economic limitations on the town and without placing a burden on other taxpayers.*

We discussed one possible recommendation we are considering as a change to the current program, and that is to freeze the tax owed by qualifying seniors ages 75 years and above. At present approximately 2/3 of the citizens taking advantage of our tax abatement program would qualify for this possible freeze on taxes.

We briefly mentioned our tax deferral program, open to seniors regardless of income, where a portion of taxes are deferred until the senior moves out of the home. Since very few people take advantage of this aspect of the program, we offered no changes.

Next Meeting: We will meet on July 12, 2018 at 7:00pm in room 209 of Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.

Minutes provided by Alice Carolan