

Concord Tax Fairness Committee
February 15, 2019
Minutes

The Tax Fairness Committee met on Friday, February 15, 2019, in the Select Board Room at 8:00 AM. Present were members Jonathan Keyes, James Phelps, Reinier Beeuwkes, David Karr, Walter Birge, Nancy Cronin, and Bill Kemeza.

David Karr reported that in regard to the Massachusetts Assessors Association bill, Lane Partridge told him that he believes the Association would agree to a higher limit on the amount of the exemption, but he would have to ask them. To make that change, Lane believes an amendment would have to be made by our State Representative Tami Gouveia.

The question was raised whether if the Assessors Association bill were to pass, would that affect our Act in any way. It was suggested that Town Counsel be asked that question, and that perhaps Lane might do that. Another question might be whether our Act could be made permanent by removing the last section which says that it will expire after 3 years of implementation. We need to find out what action the committee must take to make Concord's Act permanent.

Reinier will tell Mike Barrett about the status of our exemption and will ask him the best way to make it permanent. Would that have to start with an article on the Town Warrant next year?

Nancy reminded the group that another point on which the Mass. Assessors' bill differs from Concord's Act is the maximum assessed value of the homeowner's property. It also differs in the limit on the proportion of the levy that can be devoted to the exemption.

Jonathan announced that he is stepping down as chairman. Walter nominated David Karr for the position, and all members voted in favor.

All members expressed their thanks to Jonathan for his years of excellent service to the committee and the Town.

The next meeting will be held on March 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cronin, Clerk