

**Concord Tax Fairness Committee**  
**April 5, 2019**  
**Minutes**

The Tax Fairness Committee met on Friday, April 5, 2019, in the Select Board Room at 8:00 AM. Present were members Jonathan Keyes, James Phelps, Walter Birge, David Karr, Nancy Cronin, and Bill Kemeza. Reinier Beeuwkes was absent. Also present were Michael Lawson, Select Board liaison, John Hickling, Finance Board liaison, and Lane Partridge, Town Assessor.

The minutes of March 15, 2019 were approved after being amended by striking out the last sentence of the 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph which begins "Given that increase".

In relation to the Massachusetts Assessors Administration Organization (MAAO) draft bill, Lane Partridge said that in order to have a state-wide means-tested senior exemption, the MAAO wants something simple that would fit as many communities as possible, so the MAAO bill is probably not what Concord would want, nor would the MAAO want to amend their bill.

Lane would like the Concord bill to be easier for his staff to work with. There was a discussion about the language of the home rule petition that should be drafted to make the Concord exemption permanent. That petition would be voted on at the 2020 Town Meeting.

Bill Kemeza asked whether it would affect the passage of our home rule petition if the MAAO bill were passed before the Concord bill. Would that require Concord to follow the language of the MAAO bill? Lane said that the MAAO bill could be included in a comprehensive bill, and if included, might pass this session. An important question is what line on the Massachusetts income tax form contains the correct income number for the senior exemption.

Walter asked Lane to write a memo to our committee covering the changes that he would like to see in our current law. The committee voted to have Walter, Bill and David work with Lane on a draft of a new home rule petition. Michael Lawson will ask the Town Clerk whether a Town Meeting vote on a home rule petition passed by the Legislature will require a subsequent ballot vote by the Town. Tami Gouveia and Mike Barrett should be contacted by the TFC about our plans.

Michael Lawson suggested that the committee write a report about their plans and arrange to meet with the Select Board.

The next meeting will be held on May 17th. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted:  
Nancy Cronin, Clerk