

**Tax Fairness Committee
Minutes
October 4, 2019**

The Tax Fairness Committee met at 8:00am on October 4, 2019 in the Select Board Room. Present were members David Karr, James Phelps, Jonathan Keyes, Walter Birge, Bill Kemeza and Nancy Cronin. Also present was Michael Lawson, Select Board liaison.

The minutes of the August 6 and September 6 (as corrected) were approved.

Mike Lawson reported that he had sent copies of the proposed home rule petition to Mike Barrett, Tami Goveia, the legislators on the state Revenue Committee and Town Counsel.

David Karr reported on his presentation of the proposed home rule petition to the Select Board. There was some concern that the different method of calculation would mean that applicants would not receive the state Circuit Breaker, but David assured them that no one will lose. Town Assessor Lane Partridge was there, and he spoke in favor of the petition. He said he expected fewer applicants this year.

It was suggested that Lane Partridge be asked whether application information could be sent to the whole town.

Bill Kemeza said that in presenting the permanent home rule petition to Town Meeting, some may ask whether this will be an ever increasing burden on the Town especially because of the aging population. Walter asked what is the status of Junction Village, the proposed assisted living community.

The Committee must prepare for the public hearing on February 24. We must clearly specify the changes from the current version. We will need succinct proposals and slides. Do we have any slides from the past presentations? The Town Meeting preview meeting will be held on December 7.

Mike Lawson said that he had asked Mike Barrett whether the proposed change could be handled as an amendment to the current act, and Mike Barrett said 'no'. Mike Lawson asked whether it can be passed at a Special Town Meeting.

The proposed changes must be finished by July 1, 2021, because the current act will expire then.

Jonathan Keyes stated that a photograph of the Committee must be taken at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on November 8.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Cronin, Clerk