

# TOWN OF CONCORD TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 14, 2021

Virginia ("Dinny") McIntyre, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM in the Select Board Room at the Town House.

Present in addition were committee members Eric Van Loon and John ("Jack") Clymer, Select Board member Terri Ackerman, Hugh Cargill Trustees Judy Terry and Bob Abraham, and Jeremy Romanul, Senior Administrative Assistant, Town Manager's Office.

## ANNUAL APPEAL LETTER

Dinny opened the meeting with a discussion of her draft of the committee's annual appeal for contributions to the Town's Tax Relief and Hugh Cargill Trust funds. Several suggestions were made about the form and content of the letter.

The Committee decided to do a town-wide appeal, a break from its practice in recent years, with a goal of broadening the base of contributors and increasing the donations to the funds. The mailing would include a list (to the extent possible) of all Concord donors to the funds in recent years, and the committee members would cull the list of addressees to add a short note.

## COMMUNICATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S APPEAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The appeal letter as drafted refers to the Town's increasing tax rate, particularly given the anticipated expense of building a new Middle School. Jeremy noted that a piece describing the availability of assistance would accompany the Town's next tax bill, and Dinny suggested that the Committee attempt to secure support through other Town departments as well, such as the School and Recreation Committees, using their communications to highlight the availability of the tax and other support provided by the Tax Relief Fund and Hugh Cargill Trust.

## QUALIFICATION FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE TAX RELIEF FUND

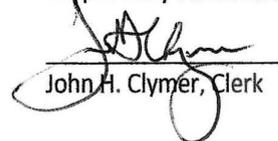
The committee discussed possible changes to its policy of requiring that the assessed value of the real estate owned by a person seeking assistance be under the median of assessments of single-family residences in the town. One such change might be to base qualification for assistance on the value of the buildings on the property, and not include the value of the land itself, given the increases in land values in recent years, but a decision was postponed until the committee could obtain more data on the subject.

## OFFICERS

The next meeting of the Committee will be scheduled when the Committee has more information on prior donors to the Funds, the cost and the process to be used to get its appeal letter in the mail, the goal for the latter being early December.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55AM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John H. Clymer, Clerk