

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
January 26, 2006**

Present: Susan Kay, Chairperson
Patrick O'Connor, Vice-Chairperson
Paul J. Leary

Not Present: Michael Molisse
Jack Carey

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Councilor Kay called the Senior Citizens Committee Meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Community Preservation Act Exemption Procedure

Councilor Kay stated that she had received three phone calls from senior citizens expressing concern about the CPA Exemption form. The callers have stated they consider the form to be an invasive, tedious form. It is their belief that the efforts to fill out this form do not match what they would receive for an exemption.

Mr. Irving Murstein of 463 Broad Street appeared before the Senior Citizens Committee. He stated that the form is very intrusive and asks for personal information. He also noted that the bill did not have the form in it. He would like to see a list of all that is required to be submitted as well as information on how privacy will be protected.

Ms. Hackett agreed that the form is exhaustive. She noted that the town only had six or seven weeks to get the tax bills out. She stated that the issue of privacy is a major concern. She noted that the Treasurer/Assessor/Accounting departments are all cross-trained. Ms. Hackett stated that all confidential information submitted to the Town are handled with the utmost care.

Councilor O'Connor agreed that the form asks for too much information.

Councilor Leary noted that State law dictates the use of this specific form. He stated that he knows a number of people who will not apply for the exemption because of the intrusive nature of the form.

Councilor Kay stated that Braintree keeps the original of the form and returns a copy to the resident. The original is kept in a locked file. She noted that only 6 or 7 people apply for the exemption each year. She suggested that the Committee draft a letter to the Department of Revenue to address this issue of the invasiveness of this form.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to send a letter to DOR to request an immediate review of the CPA form and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mr. Murstein had questions about his personal bill. Ms. Hackett agreed to speak with him privately.

The amount to be paid for the Community Preservation Act is the assessed value minus the \$100,000 exemption times the tax rate times 1%. It was noted that the exemption potential is not taken into account when estimating the amount to be received by the town.

Councilor Kay stated that she was told that the forms were needed to be kept for audit purposes.

Councilor Kay stated that she would bring this forward as a report to the full Council.

At 6:50 pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Susan Kay, Chairperson