Tax Aid Committee

TOWN OF DUNSTABLE

511 MAIN STREET

DUNSTABLE MA 01827

Meeting Minutes-

Approved

May 7, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Dunstable Tax Aid Committee meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by the Chair.

Tax Aid Committee Members Present

Anne J. Farina, Resident, Chair

Bonnie Ricardelli, Acting Town Treasurer

Brett Rock, Chair- Board of Assessors

Lori Brooks, Resident

Not Present

Nikole Roth, Resident

Others

None

2. **Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
   - Approved Minutes for 4.16.25 Meeting
3. **Review MGL Chapter 60, Section 3D**

A city or town which accepts the provisions of this section is hereby authorized, subject to the approval of the commissioner, to design and designate a place on its municipal tax bills, or the motor vehicle excise tax bills, or to mail with such tax bills a separate form, whereby the taxpayers of said city or town may voluntarily check off, donate and pledge an amount not less than $1 or such other designated amount which shall increase the amount otherwise due, and ***to establish a city or town aid to the elderly and disabled taxation fund for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income****.*

Any amounts donated to said fund shall be deposited into a special account in the general treasury and shall be in the custody of the treasurer. The treasurer shall invest said funds at the direction of the officer, board, commission, committee or other agency of the city or town who or which is otherwise authorized and required to invest trust funds of the city or town and subject to the same limitations applicable to trust fund investments, except as otherwise specified herein. The fund, together with the interest earned thereon shall be used for the purpose specified in this section without further appropriation.

In any city or town establishing an aid to the elderly and disabled taxation fund, there shall be a taxation aid committee to consist of the chairman of the board of assessors, the city or town treasurer and three residents of the city or town to be appointed by the mayor or

board of selectmen as the case may be. Said board shall adopt rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section and to identify the recipients of such aid.

4. **General Discussion**

Committee members confirmed the following eligibility requirements:

- **Age (Elderly")**: 65+
- **Disabled**: Applicant must establish that they are eligible for, and receiving, state or federal disability benefits
- **Residency:**
  - Town resident 5+ years
  - Must occupy Dunstable residence
- **Income level ("low income")**: For purposes of determining whether residents are "low income," reference will be made to the then-current Community Preservation Act (CPA) table which may be found at www.communitypreservation.org/income-limits
  - Seniors will be evaluated using the Dunstable "moderate-income" figures
  - Non seniors will be evaluated using the Dunstable "low-income" figures.
- Application support documentation
- Decision-making procedures
- Communication of Committee's purpose and charge

5. **Communication Plan**

In addition to the Town Website and Neighbor-to-Neighbor, the Committee determined that once the program design is complete it will address the Town's Seniors at a regularly scheduled Senior meeting.

The Committee will also draft a Statement and Purpose document to be uploaded to the Town website and used to advertise the program.

6. **Spring/Summer Meeting Schedule**

The Committee reasonably anticipates completing the design of the Program by early to mid-June. It determined it will meet on May 7, May 21, and June 4. If needed, the Committee will meet again on June 25.

Adjournment

Upon a Motion from the floor, which was seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.