The Tax Fairness Committee met on Zoom at 8:00am on, January 15, 2021. Present were members David Karr, Jonathan Keyes, Walter Birge, Bill Kemeza, Reinier Beeuwkes, and Nancy Cronin. Also present was Linda Escobedo, Select Board liaison.

The minutes of the December 11, 2020 meeting were approved as corrected.

Concord’s Home Rule Petition to make the senior means-tested property tax exemption permanent did not pass the Legislature before the session ended. If it is passed, it must be put on the 2021 Town Meeting warrant. The deadline for the warrant is in March. If we don’t know whether it will be passed, it was asked if the warrant wording could be provisional. It was suggested that the Moderator might help with this.

The Town Assessor told David we could bill the approved applicants as though they had received the exemption, but the money would have to be received somewhere else. David asked whether we could receive the money from the Town budget. Reinier said he believed that the money could be found, possibly from the Tax Relief Committee.

Reinier said he would talk with the Tax Relief Committee. He said we would need to be in touch with the Select Board. David said he would talk to the Town Assessor. Walter suggested that we invite the Tax Relief Committee to our next meeting and also check with the Finance Committee.

David said that the Select Board had a discussion about the Residential Exemption, a choice that is available to them. This shifts a portion of the property tax to higher level properties, commercial properties and rental properties, and is not tied to age. Linda said the Select Board discussed it and voted not to recommend it.

Bill said the first thing we need to do is to get our Home Rule Petition passed by the Legislature.

It was suggested that we meet again in 2 weeks when we should decide on the warrant article wording.

The next meeting will be on January 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cronin, Clerk