

## LOCAL OPTION LOCAL INCOME TAX COMMITTEE



*From left: Reinier Beeuwkes, Nancy Cronin, Vice-chair; Donato Bracco, Jonathan Keyes, Chair; Patrick Sinnott. Not pictured: Paul Horwitz*

The Local Option Local Income Tax Committee (LOLIT) was established in December 2008 by the Selectmen to pursue a financial goal laid out in the most recent (2005) Comprehensive Long Range Plan: to ensure that the distribution of the tax burden allows residents to remain in Concord by aligning the tax burden more closely with income than with property values. The Plan specifically recommended the consideration of a local income tax to replace a portion of the property tax. The Long Range Plan also noted that “maintaining a diverse population continues to be a challenge”.

This Committee is the outgrowth of the activities of a sub-committee of a Selectmen’s committee that recently made its final report - the Committee for Tax Relief for Seniors. Among other things, their final report recommended that the Selectmen establish a permanent committee to continue the efforts to bring about the possibility of a local income tax.

The Committee as a whole has met once with Senator Fargo and a staff member, twice with Representative Atkins and her staff, with John Robertson of the Mass Municipal Association, and with Tony Logalbo, Town Treasurer, who provided us with helpful information on how the mechanics might work. Several members (less than a quorum!) met with Town Counsel at the Cambridge office to discuss the problem of constitutionality or very possible lack thereof. Several members went to

the State House to meet with staff members of the Joint Committee on Revenue, as arranged by Rep. Atkins.

The current severe financial crisis appears to have State legislators “listening”; meetings seeking input are being held throughout the State and various lolit Committee members have attended three of them (in Acton, Harvard, and Worcester) and have taken these opportunities to make our case.

The Committee has prepared an advisory article for the 2010 Town Meeting which will request that the Selectmen petition the General Court within the next year for legislation that would permit cities and towns the local option of imposing a local income tax on residents as a replacement for a portion of that community’s property tax on residential property in order to reduce the property tax burden. The Committee has also prepared an example of the legislation which the Town would like the General Court to consider.

## BOARD OF ASSESSORS



*Standing from left: Bill Jaros, Bruce MacAlpine, Tory Lambert, Jim Phelps. Seated: Lynn Masson, Town Appraiser; David Karr, Mark Engerman. Not pictured: Connie Johnson, Jim Sommer*

The Board of Assessors began Calendar Year 2009 by processing 138 abatement applications, completing 95% of them before the end of the Fiscal Year. The Board granted an abatement in whole or in part for 47% of the applications.

The remainder of the year was devoted to the Fiscal Year 2010 Interim Year Adjustment based upon Calendar Year 2008 sales. The board met twice a month for most of the year.