

TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE



From left: Terry Rothermel, Stanly Black, Demi Ayres

The Board of Selectmen established the Tax Relief Committee in 2011 to more appropriately carry out a program previously initiated and handled by the Selectmen. Thus the Tax Relief Fund succeeded the Selectmen's Fund that was started in 2006. The essential task of the Committee is to implement annual fundraising on behalf of households in Concord with demonstrable financial need for assistance in paying their property taxes. The contributors to this fund are caring citizens of Concord.

The Hugh Cargill Committee screens the applicants for tax relief from this fund and subsequently provides quarterly grants towards (or credits against) their property tax obligations. The tax relief grants made by the Hugh Cargill Committee have helped 40 to 50 Concord households in recent years. Most of those receiving this aid are seniors on fixed incomes or single parents wishing to stay in Concord. In 2014, grants of \$275 were made quarterly, leading to a maximum of \$1,100 per household over a year's time.

Total annual contributions to the Tax Relief Fund have averaged approximately \$60,000 over the first seven years. The number of annual donors has averaged over 200 Concord households. As last year, this year's solicitations were sent out in September so as to honor October and November fundraising by our Community Chest. And like last year, our committee sent a reminder letter in December.

Every three years, solicitations are planned to be Town-wide. In 2012, that larger mailing nearly doubled the number of contributors and produced donations equal to more than double the cost of that mailing. In this current year, donations were sought from previous contributors

and a limited number of new people. Donations for the current campaign will continue to be gratefully received through June 30, 2015.

The Tax Relief Committee met ten times over the calendar year 2014. We continue to be impressed with the heartfelt contributions of so many to this purpose. We are thankful for the caring hours of support of Ruth Laurer and Laurel Landry in the Town House.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE



From left: Matt Boger, Kitsy Rothermel, Polly Peterson, Sandy Shen, Heather Peachey, Beverly Gauthier. Not pictured: Bob Sekuler

The mission of the Concord Free Public Library is to inspire lifelong learning and to actively promote personal enrichment by connecting community members to information, ideas, culture, unique historical resources and each other, in a tradition of service, innovation and excellence.

The Library Committee consists of seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of:

- Providing policy guidance to the Library Director
- Recommending policy and organizational methods to the Selectmen
- Serving as liaison between the Library and the Trustees of the Library Corporation, governmental units, and private groups that relate to library services.

The Library Committee has been very busy creating new policies and updating old ones. We spent many hours studying our old documentation, researching policies in use in other libraries, and discussing the creation of these new policies: