

***Elderly & Disabled Tax Assistance Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2023***

The meeting of the Elderly & Disabled Tax Assistance Committee was called to order by Grace Keenan, Chair at 5:31 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2023, at Town Hall, 26 Court St., in the Cranberry Meeting Room, located on the 3rd Floor.

PRESENT

Committee Members present:

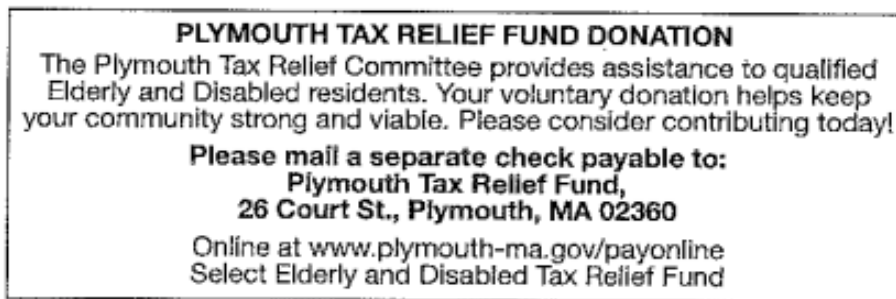
Grace Keenan, Chair
Patricia Meachen, Vice Chair
Dawn King
John Young
James Sullivan, arrived at 6:07 P.M.

AGENDA ITEMS

The first item of business was approval of meeting minutes .

- Approval Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2023
 - John Young moved to accept the meeting minutes from April 26, 2023, as presented.
 - Dawn King seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

There was discussion of the language that would be presented on the preliminary and annual real estate tax bills and personal property tax bills. The following language was agreed upon for the printers to move forward with the printing and mailing of bills.



John Young moved to accept the language presented to be placed on the tax bills.
Dawn King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

In addition to the language on the tax bills there was also discussion of the flyers that will be inserted and mailed with the tax bills. Patricia Meachen presented the information below to be printed and inserted with each tax bill mailing. Ms. Meachen will check on pricing for the inserts and bring information back to the committee for further discussion on May 23rd.

Plymouth Tax Relief Fund Donation



The Plymouth Tax Relief Fund provides assistance to qualified Elderly and Disabled residents. Your voluntary donation helps keep your community strong and viable. Please consider contributing today!

Please mail a separate check payable to: Plymouth Tax Relief Fund 26 Court St. Plymouth, MA 02360.

Online at www.plymouth-ma.gov/payonline.



PLEASE HELP YOUR FELLOW PLYMOUTH RESIDENTS WHO NEED TAX ASSISTANCE

To address the rising real estate tax burden, town meeting voted to adopt M.G.L. c. 60 §3D. This has allowed the Town of Plymouth and the Elderly and Disabled Tax Assistance Committee to create the Elderly and Disabled Tax Assistance Fund. This fund will help low-income seniors and disabled residents to continue to live in Plymouth by helping to defer the cost of their real estate taxes.

We are only able to help others by using donations from residents like you. Your voluntary donations keep the community strong and viable.

To donate please **mail a separate check** payable to Town of Plymouth for the Elderly and Disabled Tax Assistance Fund, 26 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360 or online at www.plymouth-ma.gov/payonline select Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Fund.

PLEASE HELP YOUR FELLOW PLYMOUTH RESIDENTS WHO NEED TAX ASSISTANCE

Amount: _____ \$1.00, _____ \$5.00, _____ \$10.00, _____ \$ Other
(MINIMUM AMOUNT)

Mail a separate check payable to Town of Plymouth for the Elderly and Disabled Tax Assistance Fund to Plymouth Town Hall, 26 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360

For additional information regarding this program and eligibility criteria, please go to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Assistance Committee website at <https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/953/Elderly-Disabled-Tax-Fund-Committee>

Patricia Meachen asked for reconsideration of the dates for the application to be submitted to the committee for approval of assistance. Ms. Meachen explained that the time frame originally determined for submission of applications, which was from August 1st to September 1st creates a bit of a time crunch based on the Treasury and Collections department due to the volume of work during that time. It was decided that the application for assistance would be accepted from September 1 to be received no later than October 2nd. Monetary awards are to be made by October 31st which would allow for any assistance to be applied to the 3rd quarter bill in December.

James Sullivan moved to accept the dates of September 1 to October 1 for applications to be submitted and awards to be determined by October 31.

John Young seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

After discussion, it was determined that the information regarding eligibility, as presented below, would be included with requests for applications.

Elderly/Disabled Eligibility Criteria

All applicants must be the residential property owners and provide proof of the following:

- Age Requirements
 - 65 years of age as of January 1, 2023

- Identification
 - Massachusetts license
 - State ID
 - Passport
 - Birth Certificate
 - Current Utility bill showing owner name and property address.

- Residency Requirements
 - Length of time in the community – 5-years

- Disabled - “Disabled” is defined as a homeowner who is not able to work due to illness or accident and is currently receiving benefits from one or more of the following programs based on a determination of disability: Social Security Administration, SSI or Medicaid, Veterans Administration, Workers Compensation, Plymouth Board of Assessors, or any other such program or agency providing public/financial assistance due to the disability, or other documentation of a comparable disability satisfactory to the Committee.

- Income/Assets –
 - State/Federal tax returns
 - Bank Statements

- Exemptions
 - Will be allowed to “stack” exemptions except for Tax Deferrals

- Application
 - Applications will be available on September 1st.
 - Application Deadline - Applications must be received in hand or postmarked by the close of business on October 2nd.

- Review/Awards
 - Applications will be reviewed, and tax relief awards will be granted by October 31st to be applied to the actual real estate tax bill. |

Dawn King moved for adjournment.

Jim Sullivan, second. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

The meeting concluded at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Borgatti

Pamela L. Borgatti, Clerk