

Draft: May 15, 2016

Town of Lyme
Tax Study and Advisory Committee
April 26, 2016
6:30 PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room

Tax Study and Advisory Committee Members present: Susan J. MacKenzie (Chair) Carola Lea, Rusty Keith, Dennis Stern, Wilkes McClave (Secretary), Samuel S. Levey, K.M. Furstenberg, Jeff Valence, Michael Whitman, and Judy Brotman.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by the Chair, Susan MacKenzie.

The first order of business was consideration of the draft Minutes of the meeting of March 22, 2016. After brief discussion and correction, upon motion made and seconded, the Minutes as corrected were approved.

The Committee first discussed issues set forth in a memorandum prepared by Mr. Stern. Broadly defined, these included possible additional sources of revenue, efficacy of, publicity and education about, and comparison to other towns of Lyme's current assistance programs. It was noted that while the town's ability to raise revenue is generally controlled by State law, there are several methods available. For example, given the pressing financial needs for road maintenance, pursuing a modest increase in the motor vehicle registration tax - which would go to repair town roads - seems appropriate. Discussion was had on ways to attract business activity in keeping with the town's character or to encourage investment in conformity with current zoning and planning, such as retirement housing that would bring economic activity to town. Mr. Valence reported on research being done to find ways to generate non-tax revenues for the school.

After further discussion, it was determined that the Committee should focus its efforts on studying the following:

1. Feasibility and method for a tax deferral and lien program for qualifying residents;
2. Coordination of "aging in place" and zoning;
3. Advisability of biannual tax bills;
4. Possibility of a 1% village tax on hotel and meals;
5. Reinvigorating the Lyme Economic Development Committee;

6. Improving communication and information about existing tax programs;
7. Increasing the vehicle registration fee with proceeds going to road repair; and
8. Improving recycling economics by investigating purchasing a glass crusher to be shared with other towns.

The next meeting of the Committee was set for 6:30 pm, May 24, 2016.

On motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Wilkes McClave
Secretary