

Commission on Aging, Brookfield CT

Regular Monthly Meeting: November 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Betsy McIlvaine, Chairman at 12:15 pm.

In attendance were: Commissioners Carol Howe and Peg Kaswer.

Others: Municipal Agent & Social Services Coordinator, Jeanette Holliday and Jeanne Efrece, FISH Scheduler.

October 5th minutes were accepted as written.

Regular Reports

Senior Center

Due to the Nor'easter, Alfred, causing extensive town power outages, Ms. Melville remained at the Senior Center to ensure folks looking for warmth, charging stations, food etc. received such support.

A Food Drive, including monetary contributions, will be held by the Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department November 12th. The Brookfield Food Bank welcomes contributions.

Social Service

With regard to Medicare Part D (Prescription Drugs), the Senior Center will do a comparison of an individual's current (2011) Part D Program with 2012 Part D Programs. Ms. Holliday reported some folks who participated saved about \$800.00 by changing to another provider. The enrollment schedule is from October 15 until December 7. The Senior Center has all the particulars.

Ms. Holliday also noted that one more Financial Education class will be held open to the public. There may be a follow-up held next Spring.

The State Coalition on Aging has sent us a survey to be distributed to seniors and returned by the end of November. The Commission on Aging will distribute to the Senior Center, AARP etc.

Holiday Programs are in process for Thanksgiving Baskets and Holiday Gift Giving. Contact Beth at the Senior Center to volunteer.

Old Business

FISH Program:

October requests again were few in number. The COA decided to do the following:

- contact Woodbury to see if they recall any difficulties starting the program – Ms. McIlvaine;
- contact clients to see how they are doing – Ms. Howe;
- contact clubs to speak about FISH (drivers & clients) – Ms. Kaswer (Newcomers);
- investigate doing a Lunch/Learn about FISH- Ms. Holliday;
- check to see if FISH can be added to 211 phone number – Ms. Holliday.

Ms. Melville prepared a flyer which is being distributed to churches and posted on community boards in banks, grocery stores, etc. announcing FISH of Brookfield. Ms. Howe and Ms. Kaswer continue to distribute brochures and the client letter to numerous medical offices and churches.

Ms. McIlvaine prepared FISH thank you notes for use by the COA as needed. Ms. Kaswer sent a thank you to acknowledge the contribution made by a FISH client.

Ms. Kaswer, in contact with Mr. Siennick, reported that the FISH interview taped for the Brookfield Public Advocate cable program on Channel 21 will not air until after the election.

The FISH scheduler, Ms. Effrece, distributed the November calendar on the fifteenth of October as scheduled. The COA will take care of mailing schedules to those without e-mail while Ms. Effrece is away this winter.

Ms. McIlvaine & Ms. Howe recommended a volunteer driver "Thank You" reception should be planned before the holidays. Ms. Howe will obtain a date from the Senior Center. Invitations to be done and reception plans prepared – Ms. Howe & Ms. McIlvaine.

Facilities Planning Committee

Ms. Howe attended a committee meeting which reviewed capital needs of the town. Members were to review a list of facilities and prioritize accordingly based on need.

New Business:

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peg Kaswer, Secretary