

## **Commission on Aging, Brookfield CT**

Regular Monthly Meeting: January 4, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Betsy McIlvaine, Chairman at 12:00 noon

In attendance were: Commissioners Carol Howe and Peg Kaswer.

Others: Director of Senior and Social Services, Ellen Melville, Municipal Agent & Social Services Coordinator, Jeanette Holliday and Jeanne Effrece, FISH Scheduler.

December 7th minutes were accepted as written.

### **Regular Reports**

#### **Senior Center**

Ms. Melville reported her excitement with the addition of some new programs along with new instructors. The Senior Center Holiday Bazaar, held December 3<sup>rd</sup>, raised \$4000! With regard to the facility itself the last few items requiring rework are almost completed. Once complete the CO will be given.

#### **Social Service**

Ms. Holliday reported a \$ 2000 grant was received from Operation Fuel and will be used as a backup. The number of people served by the food bank increased 16% last month. Donations continue to be needed.

Ms. Holliday coordinated receipt of the completed surveys sent to us from the State Coalition on Aging. Brookfield results indicated the number one concern from seniors was property tax reform followed by reduce drug costs, dental and hearing coverage, housing and transportation in that order.

### **Old Business**

#### **FISH Program:**

Open action items:

Prepare short article for the Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Newsletter – Ms. Howe

Contact Housatonic Times and Brookfield The Monthly Magazine to do a story – Ms. McIlvaine

Discussion continued with regard to a FISH PR campaign. In addition to the above action items, it was agreed a letter would be drafted to inform seniors 65 and older about FISH in hopes they will spread the word to their neighbors and friends. Ms. Melville will look in to obtaining a list or labels from town records. The list will be revised to make every effort to mail only one to a household. Ms. McIlvaine and Ms. Howe will draft the letter.

Action items from the January meeting:

Ms. Holliday - continue to investigate adding FISH to the 211 phone number

Ms. Melville - seniors 65+ labels

Ms. McIlvaine/Ms. Howe - draft FISH letter for PR campaign

Ms. Kaswer indicated there were no requests for rides in the last month.

The FISH scheduler, Ms. Efrece, indicated the January calendar was distributed on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The February calendar will be e-mailed as scheduled with hard copies mailed to those drivers who do not have e-mail.

#### **Facilities Planning Committee**

Ms. Howe reported due to the holidays there was no December meeting.

#### **Senior Driving Program**

When should seniors stop driving?? The discussion concluded we would see if Danbury Hospital runs such a program. Ms. McIlvaine will check into.

#### **New Business**

#### **Election of Officers**

Officers will remain the same:

Betsy McIlvaine, Chairman  
Carol Howe, Vice-Chairman  
Peg Kaswer, Secretary

#### **Budget**

Budget will remain the same.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peg Kaswer, Secretary