

Commission on Aging, Brookfield CT

Regular Monthly Meeting: February 1, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Betsy McIlvaine, Chairman at 12:05noon

In attendance were: Commissioners Carol Howe and Peg Kaswer.

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

January 4th minutes were accepted as written.

Regular Reports

Senior Center

Ms. Melville reported the Senior Center has prepared its budget for the coming year to be reviewed by the Town Selectman and Finance Board prior to the budget vote.

With regard to State and Federal Taxes, AARP will provide tax preparation assistance to low and middle-income taxpayers beginning February 3rd. Ms. Melville indicated Tax-Aide counselors will be available Fridays by appointment. Interested parties should contact the Brookfield Senior Center at 203-775-5308 for more information and to set up an appointment.

Currently Ms. Melville continues to investigate obtaining senior mailing labels through records at the Town Hall for the Commission to mail PR letter about FISH.

Social Service

Ms. Holliday reported Connecticut received \$ 17 million from the Federal Government for energy assistance. Currently the need has increased 13%.

Money management programs to assist in financial planning will continue.

The number of people served by the food bank continues to increase with donations appreciated. There is a built in drop off box outside the Food Bank at the Town Hall. Donations are welcome.

Ms. Holliday indicated the 211 action item to include FISH info has been accepted. The 211 phone number is a 24/7 info/referral line sponsored by United Way.

Old Business

FISH Program:

Action item closed: Ms. Holliday completed having FISH info added to the 211 number.

Action item closed: Ms. Howe/Ms. McIlvaine completed draft of a letter to seniors about FISH as part of the PR campaign.

Action item closed: Ms. McIlvaine completed the PR document package. She will forward the PR package to Ms. Howe and Ms. Kaswer for use in the Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Newsletter and The Penny Saver publication.

Ms. Kaswer indicated there was one request for a ride scheduled today. The FISH scheduler, Ms. Efrece, is currently away. However, the March and April calendars will be e-mailed on the 15th of February and the 15th March as scheduled. Ms. Kaswer will mail copies to those drivers who do not have e-mail.

RSVP has mailed their newsletter indicating they are in active operation. Ms. McIlvane will look into clarifying what station FISH belongs to.

Facilities Planning Committee

Ms. Howe reported the top two facility priorities are a new library and a recreation center. Their action is to come up with a list of town properties that might be used for these facilities. In addition, the committee needs to ensure the Town Center/Four Corners Project and the Facilities Planning group keep each other informed.

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

Ms. Melville reported the town is updating their website. We have an opportunity to have a COA link and a FISH link. Ms. Melville will work on the links. The Commission will offer assistance as needed.

Ms. Kaswer reported seeing an article about a grant to help seniors replace their roof. Ms. Holliday will ask at her area meetings if anyone has heard about such a grant. Perhaps we could apply.

Action items open:

- Ms. McIlvaine – contact Danbury Hospital to see if they offer a “When Should Seniors Stop Driving Program”.
- Ms. McIlvaine - Contact Housatonic Times and Brookfield The Monthly Magazine to see if they will do a story about FISH
- Ms. Howe/Ms. Kaswer – e-mail PR document packages to Chamber of Commerce and The Penny Saver for publication
- Ms. Howe/Ms. Kaswer – Compile a list of area healthcare facilities with phone numbers to contact the discharge planner informing them about FISH
- Ms. Holliday – Investigate if any area town heard about a grant for seniors to help them replace their roof.
- Ms. Melville – Work on links for COA & FISH to be included in the town website which is being updated.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peg Kaswer, Secretary