

**TOWN OF STONINGTON**

**HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**Commission on Aging**

**Recreation ♦ Social Services ♦ Youth & Family Services**

**166 South Broad Street**

**Pawcatuck, Connecticut 06379**

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**COMMISSION ON AGING**

MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2006

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The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on November 1, 2006 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were Maryann Bessette, Faith Claspell, Mary DeCiantis, Bob Elmer, Lisa Ryan, David Schmidt, David Taylor, Virginia Turek, and Jennifer Young. Also in attendance were Nancy Martin and Beth-Ann Stewart of the Human Services Department and Stonington High School students Juliana Burke, Gregory Chambers, Sara DaSilva, Sam Ferrigns, Kelsey Henderson, Christine Miner, and Grace Murray.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Elmer at 4:03 p.m.

Minutes of the October 4, 2006 meeting were presented. Motion by Maryann Bessette to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Virginia Turek. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Mary DeCiantis. The following amounts are available for use: postage: \$3000, reproduction and printing: \$202.16, and program expenses \$1742.55 for a budget total of \$4944.71. There is \$1833.09 in the post office account and \$305.65 in the postage due account. The senior activities balance is \$588.93. Motion by David Schmidt to accept the report and place on file. Seconded by Maryann Bessette. Motion carried.

Beth-Ann Stewart informed the Commission that budget reports can now be produced in-house.

Nancy Martin reported on senior activities. A Reverse Mortgage Seminar will be held at the Human Services Community Room on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. An intergenerational dance will be held at the high school on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30-8:30; this event will serve as a fundraiser for the West Broad Street School playscape. A trip to the Rhode Island Festival of Trees will take place on December 3<sup>rd</sup> as well from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. An Energy-Saving Workshop will take place on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. at the Human Services Community Room. An intergenerational Police Holiday Party will take place on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. A trip is scheduled to a Valentine's Show held at Whites of Westport on February 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Beth-Ann Stewart shared that she and Nancy attended and Affordable Housing / Homelessness conference in October. They learned that people are known to take sign-in sheets from workshops as a means of contacting seniors and preying on them. The Human Services Department will develop a policy to prevent this from happening during their events.

Beth-Ann also informed those present that the proceeds from this year's Mystic Women's Club poinsettia sale will benefit energy assistance programs in Stonington and Groton.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Bob Elmer spoke with First Selectman Brown regarding the Community Development Block Grant. First Selectman Brown stated that the grant is still in the works and "where it should be in the process is where we are."

As promised, Lisa Ryan updated the list of resources for the Senior Resource Guide which she has given to Nancy. Nancy will work on its formatting.

Mary DeCiantis questioned whether it had been determined where the emergency shelter for the town would be in the event of a disaster. Beth-Ann Stewart stated that the designated site is the high school and the alternate site in the event that the high school cannot be used is the Mystic Middle School. Beth-Ann added that the Red Cross has a contract with the town to provide services during an evacuation. Mary suggested that this information be included in the next issue of "Gary Matters." Beth-Ann will inquire with the Emergency Preparedness Director as to whether this should be done.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

David Schmidt informed those present that the PNC is looking for volunteers to pack Thanksgiving baskets.

Per Mary DeCiantis' suggestion after last month's meeting, Faith Claspell provided the First Selectman's office with an updated list of COA officers. Faith added that Mary DeCiantis, Maryann Bessette, and David Schmidt's terms expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> and a letter needs to be sent to the First Selectman's office requesting reappointment for those who wish to remain on the Commission. Mary added that the office also needs to be made aware of vacancies on the Commission (3 after December); Faith will provide this information to them.

David Schmidt and Jennifer Young volunteered to head-up the Nominating Committee for the election of officers which will take place at the January meeting.

Lisa Ryan questioned whether the Commission is involved in legislation that involves seniors and noted that if people promoted these issues at the state capital, they may have a greater probability of passing. One example was a bill that would reinstate the State of Connecticut Commission on Aging. The Commission has not been involved in legislation in the past, but several members voiced interest. Nancy volunteered to make copies of information Lisa has regarding issues presently in legislation and will provide them to members at next month's meeting.

David Taylor shared that next month will be his last meeting. He has accepted a full-time ministry position in Maryland. The Commission wishes David their best in his new endeavor!

Motion by Virginia Turek to adjourn. Seconded by Maryann Bessette. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 4:56 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, December 6, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Claspell, Secretary

