

TOWN OF STONINGTON

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Commission on Aging

Recreation □ Social Services □ Youth & Family Services

166 South Broad Street

Pawcatuck, Connecticut 06379

(860) 535-5015 □ Fax (860) 599-8290

September 5, 2007

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on September 5, 2007 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were Maryann Bessette, Betty Crouteau, Faith Claspell, Robert Elmer, Lisa Ryan, Virginia Turek, Jennifer Young, and new member Karen Hawthorn. Also in attendance were Alicia O'Neill of the Human Services Department and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Haberek.

The meeting was called to order by Robert Elmer at 4:04 p.m.

Minutes of the August 1, 2007 meeting were presented. Motion by Maryann Bessette to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Betty Crouteau. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennifer Young. The following amounts are available for use: postage: \$4,304.00, reproduction and printing: \$1,100.00, and program expenses \$2,000.00 for a budget total of \$7,404.00. There is \$2,543.50 in the post office account and \$575.16 in the senior activities budget. Motion by Stacy Cassata to accept the report and place on file. Seconded by Maryann Bessette. Motion carried.

Alicia O'Neill spoke with Senior Publishing and was assured that "Gray Matters" will be available online shortly.

Alicia noted that upcoming trips have received a good response; the trip to the Big E planned for September 15th has 21 people signed up and the trip to Quincy Market has 15 people signed up so far after only one week of advertising. The Elder Law workshop held on August 29th was well attended. However, Alicia noted that too much information was covered during this one workshop, so she will be scheduling additional workshops to cover specific areas addressed at this workshop in months to come. A senior security and safety workshop will be held at the COMO on September 27th from 4-5 p.m. A Breast and Cervical Cancer workshop will be provided at the high school from 10 am – noon on October 3rd. The next Yellow Dot program is scheduled for October 15th at Stonington Arms. The Renters Rebate program ends September 15th and the energy assistance program will begin shortly after.

Karen Hawthorn noted that a freelance writer will be visiting Westerly Adult Day Services on Tuesday, September 11th from 7-8:30 p.m. to collect information related to crimes against the elderly for an article she is writing for Rhode Island Monthly Magazine.

Lisa Ryan reported on senior legislative issues. She noted that there has not been any action taken on bills of interest to the COA. She supplied all present with handouts that provided contact information for Senator Maynard and Representative Urban. The handouts also included information on the state Commission on Aging and information on the process bills take to be passed into laws.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Elmer relayed to those present the happenings of the PNC board meeting he attended with Lisa. At this meeting, he provided their board with the COA by-laws that clearly outlined that the COA is “mandated” to be involved in the addition to the PNC (note Article I part B and Article V parts A through D of the by-laws of the COA). Bob relayed the their board the COA’s desire to work side-by-side with the PNC on this project. Bob noted that all present at the meeting agreed a collaboration would be nothing but constructive. Bob and Lisa felt his comments at the meeting were well received. Attending this meeting provided answers to some questions of the COA at past meetings. For example, the center will serve those 65 and older and a membership fee will not be required to participate in senior activities at the PNC. Lisa noted that a handout provided at the meeting showed that 78% of the members of the PNC are senior citizens. Bob made the suggestion at this meeting that a member of the board of the PNC attend COA Meetings.

Stacy Cassata made the suggestion that a separate board of directors be developed to oversee the senior center that is separate from the existing PNC board and noted the importance of members of this board being part pf the daily routine of the senior center. The suggestion was made that this board or sub-committee be a diversified board, not comprised of members of the PNC exclusively.

Bob and Lisa shared recent press coverage pertaining to the governor’s approval of the \$1,000,000 in grant money for the addition to the PNC. Bob noted the articles consistently referred to the addition as a “senior center.”

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

Motion by Maryann Bessette to adjourn. Seconded by Betty Crouteau. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 4:38 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, October 3rd, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Claspell, Secretary

