

TOWN OF STONINGTON

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Commission on Aging

Recreation ♦ Social Services ♦ Youth & Family Services

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COMMISSION ON AGING

January 3, 2007

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on January 3, 2007 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were Maryann Bessette, Stacy Cassata, Faith Claspell, Lisa Ryan, David Schmidt, Virginia Turek, and Jennifer Young. Also in attendance were Carol Umphlett, Nancy Martin and Beth Stewart of the Human Services Department and Stonington High School student Kelsey Drake.

The meeting was called to order by David Schmidt at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes of the December 6, 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 David Schmidt. The following amounts are available for use: postage: \$3,000, reproduction and printing: (-\$1.80), and program expenses \$1,530.47 for a budget total of \$4,528.67. There is \$1,554.22 in the post office account and \$300.58 in the postage due account. The senior activities balance is \$1,148.93. Beth Stewart explained that there is not a (-\$1.80) deficit in the budget as money can come from the programming or postage accounts to cover reproduction and printing costs. Motion by Faith Claspell to accept the report and place on file. Seconded by Lisa Ryan. Motion carried.

Nancy Martin reported on senior activities. The Energy-Saving Workshop provided by CL&P on December 7th at the Human Services Community Room was attended by roughly nine people; each participant received a free packet of energy-saving supplies. The Police Holiday Party held on December 17th was a success; a picture of the event was published in the "Westerly Sun." The next trip will be to the Valentine's Show held at Whites of Westport on February 9th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Upcoming workshops being planned will include several legal issues affecting seniors (i.e. long-term care placement and it's affect of estate planning, tax issues related to giving gifts, living wills etc.)

The January / February issue of "Gray Matters" will be mailed by the end of next week.

Carol Umphlett has chosen a format for her senior resources / CHOICES report. There were 151 total contacts in December, the majority of which concerned energy assistance, followed by Medicare Part D and CHOICES counseling. 41 contacts were CHOICES related; Carol explained that CHOICES is a group that helps guide seniors with decisions regarding supplemental insurance and state programs. Carol will be attending a breakfast at which Congressman Courtney will be speaking on senior issues. Carol has also joined the "M Team," at the suggestion of Lisa Ryan and will be attending their meetings

that address senior issues.

Lisa Ryan provided her report on legislative issues concerning seniors. She provided all present with handouts from the CT Coalition on Aging outlining their priorities for action on senior issues in the legislature for 2007. Lisa also provided information from the state government web site regarding their picks for the “hot topics” to be addressed by the legislature in the upcoming year; those of interest to seniors included reestablishing the Department on Aging” and long-term care issues.

OLD BUSINESS

As part of the nominating committee, David Schmidt informed the commission that Bob Elmer (President/Chair) and Faith Claspell (Secretary) agreed to another term in office. Stacy Cassata was nominated for Vice-president / Co-chair and Jennifer Young was nominated as Treasurer. David opened the floor for further nominations; none were made. A motion to close nominations was made by Maryann Bessette and seconded by Lisa Ryan. Motion carried.

Motion to nominate the slate of officers for election made by Maryanne Bessette. Seconded by Virginia Turek. Motion carried.

David Schmidt opened the floor to suggestions for grant request ideas for the Mystic Women’s Club grant. Faith Claspell suggested developing a program to collect, preserve and make available to the public memories senior residents have of Stonington as a means of providing seniors with the comfort of knowing their place as residents of Stonington and their memories of it, will be preserved for future generations. Stacy Cassata will help Faith develop the grant request. Beth Stewart offered to review the grant before submission.

NEW BUSINESS

Those present discussed budget needs for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Motion made by Virginia Turek to request an increase of \$1,500 for postage and \$500 for reproduction and printing for a total budget increase of \$2,000 bringing it from the present \$5,600 to \$7,600. Seconded by Lisa Ryan. Motion carried.

Jennifer Young informed those present that the COMO will host AARP tax preparation again this year.. This program primarily serves those ages 55 and over and provides tax preparation free of charge. Beth Stewart offered use of the Human Services computer lab in coming years to increase the productivity of this program. Jennifer also shared that the COMO has a new Director.

Beth Stewart informed those present that the next meeting of the TRIAD SALT Council is on Wednesday, January 24th.

Beth also shared that this summer, there will be 500 out-of-state youth who will volunteer through a church group to complete home repair projects for low-income families and seniors in the area.

Motion by Virginia Turek to adjourn. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 4:54 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, February 7th, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Claspell, Secretary

