

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
4:00p.m.
AGUST 1, 2007
STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on August 1, 2007 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were Maryann Bessette, Betty Crouteau, Faith Claspell, Robert Elmer, Lisa Ryan, David Schmidt, Virginia Turek, and Jennifer Young. Also in attendance were Alicia O'Neill and Carol Umphlett of the Human Services Department and Ed Haberek.

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

Minutes of the July 11, 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: \$4,325.00 (note the postage amount for this fiscal year was \$4,500, a \$1,500 increase over last year's budgeted amount of \$3,000), reproduction and printing: \$1,100.00, and program expenses \$2,000.00 for a budget total of \$7,425.00. There is \$2,849.04 in the post office account and \$284.98 in the postage due account. The senior activities balance is \$619.16. Motion by Lisa Ryan to accept the report and place on file. Seconded by Virginia Turek. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett passed along a letter that informed the Commission that the grant request submitted to the Mystic Women's Club to fund the resident history program was not awarded.

Carol provided all present with a copy of the "Notice to Public of No Significant Impact and Notice to Request for Release of Funds" related to the expansion of the PNC for everyone's review. The majority of Carol's June contacts were regarding renters rebate. She is already receiving requests regarding energy assistance; applications for this program can be submitted beginning in September.

Alicia O'Neill clarified how the Senior Resource Guide will be distributed; an insert will be included in "Gray Matters" encouraging anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the guide to contact the Human Services Department.

Alicia reported that the Yellow Dot program held last Wednesday had over 13 people in attendance and received press coverage in the newspaper. Upcoming programs include a trip to the Big E on September 15th from 9 am – 6 pm. A workshop on elder law issues provided by CT Legal Services will be held on August 29th at 10 am in the Human Services community room. This workshop will address power of attorney, paying for nursing home care using Title 19, and conservatorship. On October 3rd a Breast and Cervical Cancer workshop will be provided at the high school from 10 am – noon. This workshop will be provided by a member of staff at the American Cancer Society and a staff member of L & M Hospital.

Lisa Ryan reported on senior legislative issues. She provided all present with handouts concerning senate bill 581 which was just passed. This bill will "provide funding for repairs and rehabilitation to affordable housing for individuals and families and *assisted housing for the elderly* and handicapped persons."

Bob Elmer shared correspondence he received in response to his letter informing Senator Doyle of the Commission's support of Bill 206 that would provide a cost sharing grant program to enhance the

development of senior centers. Sen. Doyle informed Bob that the bill “died” in the Human Services Committee. The Commission will watch to see if this bill comes up again in September.

OLD BUSINESS

Alicia O'Neill will be talking to the publisher of “Gray Matters” this week regarding when the newsletter will be available online.

Bob Elmer spoke with First Selectman Brown regarding the status of the grant for the expansion of the PNC. He was informed that there is progress; a design team has been selected and basic plans have been developed. The money is not “in-house “ yet, but the project continues to move forward. Mr. Brown assured Bob that whenever an update is desired, Bob only needs to call and ask for information and Mr. Brown will supply it.

It was shared that Vicki Anderson of the PNC spoke at a dinner at Stonington Arms and gave information regarding the status of the expansion that the COA has not been made aware of. Lisa Ryan suggested that whatever meeting Vicki is getting her information from that Bob Elmer be in attendance as well so the Commission is not unaware of information the public is being given regarding the project.

In response to the Commission's request, Carol Umphlett provided those present with a copy of the DECD grant application submitted by the town for the funding of the expansion of the PNC.

Virginia Turek questioned who mailed out the form letters included in the DECD application and whether all seniors in Stonington were able to make their opinions known.

David Schmidt voiced his concern that the senior center be overseen by a board of directors independent of the PNC as there is town money funding the project and out of a concern that the PNC would make all decisions regarding the center otherwise.

Alicia O'Neill informed the Commission that she has noticed an increased number of complaints regarding the availability of transportation services in Stonington. She noted that an individual must be a member in order to receive transportation from the PNC.

Bob Elmer will contact First Selectman Brown as to whether membership to the PNC will be required to participate in senior programming provided there when it is the location of the senior center. He will also request he attend next month's meeting since viewing the grant application brought up many questions. Bob encouraged all members to prepare their questions for the meeting for Mr. Brown to address firsthand.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

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

Meeting adjourned 5:02 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, September 5th, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Claspell, Secretary