

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
September 3, 2008
STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on September 3, 2008 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Stacy Cassata, Faith Claspell, Betty Croteau, Robert Elmer, Karen Hawthorn, Lisa Ryan, Virginia Turek and Jennifer Young. Also attending: Beth Stewart, Director of Stonington Human Services. Unable to attend: Kathleen Crockford, Toni Potter and David Schmidt.

Guests Attending: June Strunk, Vice President PNC Board

Late Arrivals: Carol Umphlett, Agent for the Elderly, Stonington Human Services 4:12

The meeting was called to order by Robert Elmer at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes of the August 6, 2008 meeting were presented. Motion by Robert Elmer to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Maryann Bessette. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennifer Young. An intake of \$75.00 and \$43.50 is reflected on the Treasurer's report for trips/events. No expenditures are reflected with the following amounts available for use: Postage: \$4,500; Reproduction & Printing: \$1,100; Program Expenses: \$2,200 for a budget total of \$7,800. There is \$493.12 in the Postage Due Account and \$1,633.64 in the Post Office Account.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services, presented an activity report. Of the 239 households served (417 individuals) 35% (147) were seniors (55 and older). 35% (147) of the total persons served in August 2008 were seniors (age 55+) compared to 42% (88) in August 2007. This implies a noticeable increase in program participation across the board.

The Renter's Rebate Program has seen 217 applicants so far this year with a total grant amount of \$96,021.59. The program ends on September 15th. Last year's total participation was 206 applicants and total grant amount of \$90,024.80. We have lost 24 applicants this year (most of whom moved out of the area) and have gained 35 new applicants to date.

Upcoming events: September: The Big E and Yellow Dot; October 14 and October 15: AARP Safe Driving Course; October 4: Wrentham Village Outlets.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Elmer noted that all Commission on Aging Board members were polled and all were in agreement on the naming of the Robert A. Granato Senior Annex.

Lisa Ryan is still investigating the opportunities for additional means of transportation for seniors in Stonington. She shared an update on her inquiries into an organization called The Independent Transportation Network ("iTN America"). Lisa is still trying to contact Middletown officials to investigate further. Participating in the program would require raising approximately \$125,000. Lisa stated that perhaps a regional approach should be revisited in view of the success of Groton, New London and Ledyard in joining to receive grant monies to increase their transportation.

June Strunk stated that PNC does not have a transportation task force. Lisa suggested that rather than have the Commission on Aging work on the transportation issue independently, a PNC board member, such as June, could be on the COA Transportation sub-committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Beth Stewart, Director of Stonington Human Services, distributed the Senior Citizen Edition insert that went into the Stonington Times. The insert was a State of Connecticut Grant funded edition that listed services offered by The Stonington Department of Human Services as well as upcoming events for seniors.

Jennifer Young stated that the Stonington Golden Agers club has recently lost its president. Virginia Turek stated that currently the membership is quite low and she is investigating how to either appeal to new members or the procedure for disbanding the club. Lisa Ryan suggested a membership drive.

Lisa Ryan stated that First Selectman, Ed Haberek, has sent an email to announce a Free Statewide Forum on Property Tax Relief For Seniors. It is a free forum to share information on how the state's municipalities design and administer property tax relief programs for older adults. It will be co-sponsored by the Connecticut Coalition on Aging and the Connecticut Commission on Aging and will be held on November 20, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. until Noon in the Legislative Office Bldg. adjacent to the State Capitol in Hartford. Those interested should contact Ed Haberek.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, October 1, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hawthorn, Secretary