

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

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

Late Arrivals: Toni Potter 4:13 p.m.; First Selectman, Ed Haberek 4:20

Guests Attending: June Strunk, Vice President PNC Board

The meeting was called to order by Robert Elmer at 4:02 p.m.

Minutes of the November 5, 2008 meeting were presented. Motion by Lisa Ryan to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Betty Croteau. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Robert Elmer on behalf of Jennifer Young. The following amounts are available for use: Postage: \$4,320.00; Reproduction & Printing: \$1,020.18; Program Expenses: \$1,628.01 for a budget total of \$6,968.19. There is \$364.16 in the Postage Due Account and \$983.33 in the Post Office Account.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services, presented an activity report. She reported that the tracking system is being upgraded, therefore these numbers are an unofficial report for now: Energy Assistance: approximately 200 applications have been taken. She also stated that there have been a number of calls regarding the Open Enrollment Period for Medicare Part D. There have also been some calls regarding the Healthnet Pearl Plan which is being discontinued at the beginning of 2009.

Upcoming events: December 12, 2008: 5th Annual Holiday Party.

Lisa Ryan reported that the new session of the Connecticut Legislature will begin on January 7, 2009. On January 9, 2009 the Connecticut Coalition on Aging will sponsor a session on Money Follows the Person in Hartford. Money Follows the Person is a program of flexible financing for long-term services and supports for the elderly and disabled that enable available funds to move

with an individual to the most appropriate and preferred setting as the individual's needs and preferences change. The goal of this program is to reduce reliance on institutional care while developing community-based long-term care opportunities to help keep people in their homes for as long as possible.

First Selectman, Ed Haberek, reported that the building of the Senior Center is moving ahead and that the completion date is still expected to be sometime at the end of January 2009.

Ed stated that the Board of Selectmen approved the naming of the new senior center at their meeting on November 12. The new senior center will be called the Robert A. Granato Senior Center.

Ed also shared that at the end of January 2009, a SEAT Bus will begin running a route from the new Stop and Shop to be built on Rt. 2 through Pawcatuck, down Rt. 1 to Old Mystic Village.

Ed announced that the first budget hearing was held on December 2 with about 30 people attending. There will be two further hearings: December 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Edythe K. Richmond Center and December 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mystic Firehouse.

June Strunk, Vice President of Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Board and Liaison to Commission on Aging, reported on senior activities at The PNC. During the month of November, there were 156 Thanksgiving dinners delivered to area seniors. There were 51 seniors that were transported by 364 rides. Most of the rides were round trip and approximately one third of the rides were social (shopping, PNC), one third were to adult day services and one third were medical. All senior programming is continuing off site until the completion of the new senior center.

OLD BUSINESS

Beth Stewart spoke on behalf of the Stonington Commission on Aging Transportation Sub-Committee (Sub-Committee members: Beth Stewart, Lisa Ryan, Stacy Cassata and June Strunk). All paperwork has been submitted for the grant (regional partnership for transportation with Groton, East Lyme, Waterford and New London where all will pool state grant funding to contract with ECTC (Eastern Connecticut Transportation Council) to provide medical transportation for seniors and the disabled).

NEW BUSINESS

The Stonington Commission on Aging will has four expiring terms. Three members will renew their terms and will submit letters confirming their desire to be reappointed. The Board of Selectman will select and applicant for appointment for the fourth position.

Toni Potter announced a concert to be held at St. Patrick Mystic Parish Hall. The Mystic/Noank Band will play. The concert is sponsored by Daughters of Isabella Circle 796. Refreshments available.

Motion to adjourn made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Toni Potter.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

**Karen Hawthorn
Secretary**