

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
October 1, 2008
STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on October 1, 2008 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Robert Elmer, Toni Potter, Lisa Ryan, David Schmidt, Virginia Turek and Jennifer Young. Unable to attend: Stacy Cassata, Faith Claspell, Kathleen Crockford, Betty Croteau, Karen Hawthorn

Guests Attending: June Strunk, Vice President PNC Board, 5 Citizens In Action Students from Stonington High School

The meeting was called to order by Robert Elmer at 4:07 p.m.

Minutes of the September 3, 2008 meeting were presented. Motion by Robert Elmer to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Virginia Turek. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennifer Young. The following amounts are available for use: Postage: \$4,500; Reproduction & Printing: \$1,100; Program Expenses: \$1,911.44 for a budget total of \$7,511.44. There is \$400.70 in the Postage Due Account and \$1,297.44 in the Post Office Account.

Jennifer also reported that the Stonington Community Center held a fund raiser at Stonington Meadows on September 27. She stated that it was a wonderful evening and the community was very supportive.

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: Over 100 applications taken. Of these, roughly 30% were seniors. Renter's Rebate ended September 15. Over 260 seniors and individuals with disabilities applied.

Lisa Ryan provided a list of legislation that will become effective as of October 1, 2008. Lisa has offered to provide information on specific issues of interest. Commission members or individuals should let Lisa know of specific areas of interest.

Lisa also shared a pamphlet on a three day conference in Westbrook Connecticut entitled: "Aging is Changing".

Upcoming events: October 14 and October 15: AARP Safe Driving Course; October 4: Wrentham Village Outlets. Area Flu Clinics: Academy Point Flu Clinic 10/08/08 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Stonington Community Center Flu Clinic: 10/16/08 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will also be a TRIAD information table. Please call Academy Point to let them know you are planning to attend.

TRIAD Conference 10/15/08 at the Seaman's Inn.

First Selectman, Ed Haberek, reported that the building of the Senior Center is back on track.

Ed also shared that the Yardney evacuation brought to light the need to put calls through to the senior housing sites in a timelier manner and to provide transportation.

Ed Haberek accepted the Good Neighbor Award which was presented to the Town of Stonington by The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

Ed reported that he will be attending a property tax symposium on November 20, 2008 and that the symposium will address a tax break for seniors.

OLD BUSINESS

The Stonington Golden Agers have lost their Treasurer, Charlie Karnolt. Bob elmer has offered to help with the financial issues this has caused.

The Commission on Aging Transportation Sub-committee (Beth Stewart, Stacy Cassata, Lisa Ryan and June Strunk) will be meeting with Mary Jo Riley from the Groton Senior Center to discuss a regional approach to the transportation situation in Stonington.

The PNC is still unable to transport the Stonington resident to Westerly Adult Day Services since they still do not have an aide to ride the van or the budget to hire one.

The Wii purchased with funds from a grant from the Mystic Women's Club has arrived. The Wii Fit program will arrive soon.

NEW BUSINESS

June Strunk described the food programs at the PNC including the weekly Back Pack Program for students and the Serve Co-op which is a monthly program (2 hours of volunteering and \$22 will feed a family of 4).

Nomination for new members: Maryanne Bessette, Toni Potter and Betty Croteau will be the nominating committee. Faith Claspell will not serve another term which will leave one opening on the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, November 5, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jennifer Young
Secretary Pro-tem**