

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
December 2, 2009**

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on December 2, 2009 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Stacy Cassata, Betty Croteau, Robert Elmer, Karen Hawthorn, Toni Potter, Lisa Ryan, David Schmidt. Also attending: Beth Stewart, Director, Stonington Human Services, Carol Umphlett Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services; Jennifer Young, Stonington COMO Liaison. Unable to attend were: Kathleen Crockford, Virginia Turek, Billie Ward.

Guests attending: June Strunk, Vice President of PNC Board, Abdul Rehman, Stonington High School Citizens in Action.

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

Minutes of the November 4, 2009 meeting were presented. Motion to accept amended minutes correcting Jennifer Young's November attendance and place on file made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Betty Croteau. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report for November 2009 were presented by Toni Potter. The following amounts were available for use: Postage: \$2500; Reproduction & Printing: \$1,100; Program Expenses: \$2,094.51, for a budget total of \$5,694.51. Motion to accept report and place on file made by Stacy Cassata. Seconded by Lisa Ryan. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett, Agent for the Elderly, Stonington Human Services reported that energy assistance applications began on August 1 and she is still working on them. Carol stated that work is being done to the software that used for her statistics reports and she is hopeful that it will be ready by next month's meeting. She also reported that she attended the Senior Fair at United Way in Gales Ferry. It was an excellent opportunity to network.

Lisa Ryan, legislative liaison for the Stonington COA, stated that the Connecticut legislature has called a special session on December 15 to discuss the Deficit Mitigation Plan (program reductions requiring legislation). The programs that are up for discussion could mean a significant cut in programs for the elderly.

June Strunk, Vice President of PNC Board and liaison to the Stonington Commission on Aging, reported that in October PNC transported 62 Seniors (56 from Stonington) for a total of 750 rides.

June also stated that she will try to get figures on how many bags of food were supplied from the Food Locker to seniors. Carol Umphlett suggested a possible collaboration with the Commission on Aging to develop a program for delivering bags of food to homebound seniors who need food. June stated that the PNC has a Hunger Task Force. Lisa Ryan stated that seniors who come to the Food Locker may also be in need of other assistance. Beth Stewart suggested that informational fliers regarding available services could go into all bags of food from the Food Locker. June will bring this possibility up to the PNC Board.

Jennifer Young reported that over 100 seniors participated in programs at The COMO in November. 20 Congregate Meals were served at The COMO and between 550-600 meals were delivered. Bob Elmer inquired whether the meals that are served at the COMO have been scheduled for a date to transition to the Robert A. Granato Senior Center. Jennifer Young reported that at this time, it has not.

Jenn reported that a group 20-30 of concerned seniors have been meeting twice a month at The COMO. They are discussing issues such as insurance, boomerang kids, etc. At this time the group is still informal but may choose to formally organize as a group in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

With regard to June Strunk's inquiry about the COA minutes reflecting transportation statistic, Carol Umphlett shared that she has inquired with ECTC about getting ride statistics and they will be able to produce the stats for the minutes.

Lisa Ryan reported that she will have a meeting with First Selectman, Ed Haberek at Stonington Town Hall on December 10, at 3:00 p.m. to discuss a transportation seminar for seniors which would teach them about how to use the transportation that is available to them (i.e. using the SEAT Bus).

NEW BUSINESS

Beth Stewart reported that the budget is due in early January and asked what the budget request should be for the coming year. She said that the Board of Finance is not allowing any increases. Any new projects under CIP won't be funded. Motion to submit request for same amount of funding as last year made by Lisa Ryan. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion carried.

The Commission on Aging has four members whose terms of appointment will expire on December 31. Those members have submitted letters to The Selectmen's Office requesting re-appointment to the Commission: Karen Hawthorn, Maryann Bessette, Betty Croteau, David Schmidt. The Commission nominated the following for a new slate of officers for 2010: Chair: Lisa Ryan; Vice-Chair: Stacy Cassata; Treasurer: Toni Potter; Secretary: Karen Hawthorn. Nominations accepted by all. Motion to accept nominations made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Betty Croteau. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Dave Schmidt. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Karen Hawthorn
Secretary**