

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
January 7, 2009
STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on January 7, 2009 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Stacy Cassata, Robert Elmer, Karen Hawthorn, Lisa Ryan, David Schmidt, Billie Ward and Jennifer Young. Also attending: Beth Stewart, Director Stonington Human Services, Carol Umphlett , Agent For the Elderly Stonington Human Services. Unable to attend were: Maryann Bessette, Kathleen Crockford, Betty Croteau, Toni Potter and Virginia Turek.

Late Arrivals: First Selectman, Ed Haberek 4:21

Guests Attending: June Strunk, Vice President PNC Board, Stonington High School Citizens In Action Students: Jordan Skeens and Deena Nieuwenhuis

The meeting was called to order by Robert Elmer at 4:01 p.m.

Minutes of the December 3, 2008 meeting were presented. Motion by Lisa Ryan to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennifer Young. The following amounts are available for use: Postage: \$4,320.00; Reproduction & Printing: \$620.18; Program Expenses: \$1,547.68 for a budget total of \$6,487.86. 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. 104 Social Services appointments were scheduled in December. 33% were appointments with seniors. The appointments pertained to issues such as ConnPACE, Medicare Part D and Energy Assistance.

Carol reported that the S.A.L.T. Council (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) met on December 2. The S.A.L.T. Council meets quarterly to discuss and plan community activities for seniors. At the December 2, meeting, Chief Stewart discussed scams that seniors should be aware of. S.A.L.T. has also planned a tea to be held at The Stonington Arms on February 12 at 9:30 a.m. The topic will be a workshop which teaches about recognizing scams.

Carol shared that seniors have been inquiring about the SEAT Bus route, when it will start and whether there will be stops at the COMO and The Farmer's

Market. First Selectman Ed Haberek stated that the bus should start sometime in late January and that there will probably be a stop for the COMO. The route will not be a “flag route”. There will be set stops and the specifics about the bus route will be in the paper. Rt. 1 and Rt. 2 are state roads and are subject to certain restrictions about where a bus can stop.

Beth Stewart announced that Stonington Human Services is currently taking applications for a variety of federal and state energy assistance programs available to income eligible Stonington residents. She stated that Stonington Human Services has experienced a 52% increase in Energy Assistance applications processed during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (339 applications) in comparison to the first six months of Fiscal Year 2007-2008 (223 applications). Call Stonington Human Services at 860-535-5015 for an appointment to apply.

Jennifer Young distributed the new Stonington COMO fliers. She also announced that AARP and the Stonington COMO will offer free help with tax preparation by appointment only. Call for an appointment at: 860-535-2476.

Ed Haberek stated that the progress on the new senior center is moving forward but had a bit of a delay when water pressure issues were encountered. However, these issues were resolved. Ed also extended his thanks to PNC and Peter Glankoff for inviting him to participate in their radio program on WBLQ. Ed shared that he attended a meeting in Hartford regarding senior tax issues and he is continuing to talk with legislators regarding the struggles seniors are facing with taxes.

Lisa Ryan distributed a survey from the Connecticut Coalition on Aging. The purpose of the survey is to help The Coalition determine priority issues to work on in 2009. The survey must be completed by mail or online (www.coalitionagingct.org) by January 16, 2009.

Lisa reported that the new session of the Connecticut Legislature began on January 7, 2009. On January 9, 2009 the Connecticut Commission on Aging in partnership with The Long-Term Care Advisory Council will present a Legislative Briefing session in Hartford (10 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building, Room 2C) on the recently implemented Money Follows the Person Program.

June Strunk, Vice President of Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Board and Liaison to Commission on Aging, reported that the construction on the new senior center is moving forward. Although it will be close, construction may not be finished by the end of this January. Updates on the progress of the construction are available on the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center website at: www.the-pnc.org.

June also shared that the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center will have a fundraiser for the new senior center. The Gala will be held on May 29, 2009 at the Mystic Hilton in Mystic, CT.

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). Beth is awaiting follow up from Groton at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

The Stonington Board of Selectman has appointed Billie Ward as a new member of the Stonington Commission on Aging.

Bob Elmer asked Commission members for any new senior issues that might be reviewed by the Commission.

Motion to adjourn made by Billie Ward. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Karen Hawthorn
Secretary**