

MINUTES

COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING April 1, 2009

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on April 1, 2009 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Stacy Cassata, Robert Elmer, Lisa Ryan, David Schmidt, Virginia Turek, Billie Ward and Jennifer Young. Also attending: Carol Umphlett Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services. Unable to attend were: Kathleen Crockford, Betty Croteau, Karen Hawthorn, Toni Potter.

Guests: June Strunk, Vice President of PNC Board; Stonington High School Students from Citizens in Action

Late Arrivals: Ed Haberek: 4:12

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

Minutes of the March 4, 2009 meeting were presented. Motion to accept minutes by Maryann Bessette to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Lisa Ryan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennifer Young. The following amounts are available for use: Postage: \$3,960.00; Reproduction & Printing: \$620.18; Program Expenses: \$1,084.65 for a budget total of \$5,664.83. There is \$192.38 in the Postage Due Account and \$338.79 in the Post Office Account. There was a question as to why \$443.96 was paid to Cindy Lohr for senior exercise. Carol Umphlett will look into the matter.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For the Elderly, Stonington Human Services reported that Energy Assistance was extended an extra two weeks until March 31, 2009. Renter's Rebate begins in May.

Lisa Ryan, legislative liaison for the Stonington COA, distributed the following bill proposals dealing with elder issues Bill No. SB-245 An Act Concerning A Property Tax Credit For Home Improvements That Enable Elderly or Disabled To Remain In Their Homes; Bill SB-451 An Act Establishing a Silver Alert System; Bill SB-663 An Act Concerning Senior Operators of Motor Vehicles. The handouts reflect what happens when a bill goes to a hearing, i.e. the reason for the bill, who is sponsoring the bill, who testifies, etc. Lisa also distributed a report from the Long-Term Care Advisory Council. The report

was from the Appropriations Committee February 18, 2009 statement of Governor Rell's Budget Proposal and reflect proposed program cuts and delays.

Ed Haberek reported on current bills being considered in Hartford. Among them are bills that are aimed at better ways to have "senior tax freezes" and the possibility of pushing back property re-evaluation for seniors to every 10 years.

Ed reported that the new SEAT Bus route is successful. The construction on the new senior center is in the "home stretch". There is a possibility that the dedication ceremony will be some time during the last two weeks of May.

June Strunk gave a report on behalf of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. In February 2009 PNC provided 53 seniors with a total of 489 rides. June is also heading a committee that will draw up policies and procedure for the running of the new senior center. The PNC website will link all senior activities available through other centers (i.e. COMO, Stonington Arms, etc.).

Ed Haberek remarked that June has been a tremendous liaison between the town and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

OLD BUSINESS

Virginia Turek inquired about when Gray Matters will no longer be published. The contract expires in November 2009. It will then be replaced by a publication that is published twice yearly (Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer).

The COMO van will make trips to the new Stop and Shop in Pawcatuck.

Golden Agers: With the help of Jennifer Young, Virginia Turek sent out postcards to 50 seniors announcing a meeting of the Golden Agers. Two new people responded to the postcards and came to the meeting, along with 4 of the regular members (for a total of 6 attending). Virginia Turek was voted President, Treasurer, and Sunshine Committee.

Ed Haberek reported that Town Hall will begin using an internet web page (linked to the First Selectmen's page – Gov.QA) for reporting things such as downed trees, broken sidewalks, fuel assistance, etc. The program will help the Town Departments measure customer service. At this time the web application is in the pilot stage and will be used internally by Town Hall but will eventually go "live" after all departments at Town Hall have been trained.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed Haberek reported that he is looking into the possibility of having a “senior card” which area seniors can carry with them and present to various local businesses for discounts.

**Motion to adjourn made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Virginia Turek.
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Stacy Cassata
Vice Chair and
Secretary Pro Tem**