

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
January 6, 2010**

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on January 6, 2010 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Stacy Cassata, Betty Croteau, Robert Elmer, Karen Hawthorn, Toni Potter, and Lisa Ryan. Unable to attend were: Kathleen Crockford, David Schmidt, Virginia Turek, Billie Ward.

Guests attending: June Strunk, Vice President of PNC Board, Stonington High School Citizens in Action students: Emily Turner and Emma Sugar.

Late Arrivals: First Selectman Ed Haberek 4:28 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Ryan at 4:07 p.m.

Minutes of the December 2, 2009 meeting were presented. Motion to accept minutes and place on file made by Bob Elmer. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report for December 2009 was presented by Toni Potter. The following amounts are available for use: Postage: \$2,315; Repro and Printing: \$1,100; Program: \$1,999.55 for a budget total of \$5,414.55. There is \$00.30 in the Postage Due account and \$1,303.34 in the Permit Imprint Account.

Lisa Ryan presented news and printed information on the following legislative issues: Connecticut Commission on Aging Update: Program Changes Affecting Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities (CT Alzheimer's Respite Care Program closed intake on May 11 and will not re-open); Falls Prevention Program will not receive funding; Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders now requires a 15% co-payment; ConnPace applicants will have a restricted enrollment period coinciding with that of Medicare; Community Based Services intake was closed May 11. It remains closed and has a wait list. AARP and The National Conference of State Legislatures are collaborating on an 18-month project to bring together state legislators, AARP staff and volunteers to identify long-term care issues and challenges. This information will provide lawmakers with the information needed to develop sound statewide policies.

June Strunk, Vice President of PNC Board and liaison to the Stonington Commission on Aging, reported that in November PNC transported 56 seniors for a total of 544 rides. Of those rides 132 were for medical appointments; 156

were to Westerly Adult Day Services; 210 were for lunch at the PNC; 26 were for shopping, banking and pharmacy. PNC was closed for Veteran's Day and the Thanksgiving holiday which accounts for the lower number of rides in November. 149 meals were served to 43 seniors. June also reported on PNC membership. In 2007 there was a 500+ membership at the PNC. This number includes seniors, families, adults and businesses. In 2008 the membership was 273 (223 were seniors); 2009 membership was 369 (284 were seniors).

First Selectman, Ed Haberek, shared that there will be a Freedom of Information Act workshop for the benefit of town staff and all members of appointed boards and commissions. The workshop will be held on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Avenue. Tom Hennick, Public Education Officer from the State's Freedom of Information Commission will conduct the workshop and will clarify responsibilities under the act.

Ed shared that he will be putting together a "Senior Tax Task Force" soon. The task force will look at options for helping seniors with property taxes (i.e. freeze, abatement, rebate for seniors, etc.) Ed stated that COA were welcome to be on the task force.

OLD BUSINESS

Ed Haberek and Lisa Ryan reported on the transportation meeting on December 10, which was also attended by Beth Stewart, Director Stonington Human Services and June Strunk, Vice President of PNC Board. There was a discussion about ways to enhance and encourage use of the S.E.A.T. bus which currently has low ridership. Suggestions are to: have a seminar for seniors that would teach them how to use the bus; use easier to read cards; have signs marking bus stops. There was also discussion about the possibility of adding the PNC as a stop and of the PNC selling passes.

Ed stated that there was also discussion about applying for a grant for a new vehicle. The grant would be due by March 1, 2010.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hawthorn

**Karen Hawthorn
Secretary**