

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
September 1, 2010**

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on September 1, 2010 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Betty Croteau, Karen Hawthorn, Father Brian Romanowski, Lisa Ryan, Billie Ward. Also attending: Carol Umphlett Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services. Unable to attend were: George Brennan, Stacy Cassata, Robert Elmer, Toni Potter and Virginia Turek.

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Ryan at 4:00 p.m. Lisa welcomed the newest Commission on Aging member, Father Brian Romanowski.

Minutes of the May 2010 and August 2010 meetings were presented. Motion to accept minutes and place on file made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Betty Croteau. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was unavailable. Treasurer, Toni Potter is on medical leave.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For the Elderly, Stonington Human Services reported that the new stats tracking system is up and running with a few glitches and she hopes to be able to produce a statistical report with the new system by October.

Carol stated that the Energy Assistance Applications began on August 2 and she has been very busy with these applications. Last year over 300 community applications were received. Carol reported that there are many seniors at an apartment complex at 51 Church Street in Mystic and they have many energy assistance applications each year. Lisa Ryan stated that the ridership of the SEAT bus might be increased if those seniors at the Church Street complex could use it. Carol also stated that those seniors can and do use ECTC transportation and PNC will transport if they have an appointment within town.

Carol stated that the Department of Human Services has books of tickets for ECTC and SEAT bus which are given to seniors who can't afford them.

Carol distributed information on the Lunch and Learn Series where seniors are invited to join Stonington Human Services for lunch at varying venues. The program includes lunch and brief presentations on assorted topics of interest. The Lunch and Learn program begins on October 1 from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Register at Stonington Human Services at least one week prior to the events. Residents: \$35 for all 7 lunches or \$6 per luncheon; Non-residents \$50 for all 7 luncheons or \$8 per luncheon.

Carol announced that the annual TRIA meeting will be held on September 17 in Cromwell, Connecticut. TRIAD is a collaboration of law enforcement agencies, seniors and community members to help education seniors and families about scams, banking fraud, probate court issues, The Yellow Dot Program, etc.

On behalf of June Strunk, PNC Liaison, Lisa Ryan gave the following transportation and senior activities statistics for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center: For the month of July 2010 55 Seniors were served for a total of 679 one way rides. 43 riders were from Pawcatuck; 3 from Stonington, 3 from Mystic; 2 from North Stonington; 5 from Westerly. 24 Seniors had 139 one way trips for medical appointments; 24 seniors to PNC Lunch and activities each week for 316 trips; 6 people transported with varying schedules to/from Adult Day Center of Westerly for 150 rides; 15 used transportation for grocery shopping, banking and hair appointments – 72 one way trips; 1 for various social activities for 2 rides. Four seniors were added to the roster, 3 from Pawcatuck for lunch and medical appointments and one from Mystic to Adult Day Center of Westerly. Activities: Morning Stretch, Line Dancing, Writing, Art, Wii Bowling, Tai Chi are running smoothly. Writing group on Friday has moved to lower level at 10 am instead of 9 am because of noise issues with meals on wheels working upstairs. 185 congregate meals were served to 42 seniors during the month of June. Fresh prep-café style meals started the beginning of August on Tuesdays and Wednesday. Original TVCCA meal is still being served on Monday. Tim Grills is working closely with kitchen staff and volunteers to train on the heating and serving of the new meals. The foot clinic is now on a summer schedule of four patients every Wednesday.

Lisa Ryan, legislative liaison for the Stonington COA, reported that the Legislation is not in session. Joe Courtney has started a bill regarding the “observation status” in hospitals which are disqualifying seniors for subsequent Medicare stays in nursing homes.

OLD BUSINESS

During the August 2010 Commission meeting the Town Planner and land owner did a presentation on the proposed land swap with the town. The referendum went through. Billie Ward moved that the Stonington Commission on Aging vote on whether we support additional senior housing. Maryann Bessette seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Lisa Ryan distributed information on a new free service provided by Senior Resources – Agency on Aging. The service provides free friendly conversation and reassuring phone calls to those who are homebound, isolated, caregivers or grandparents. Calls may be schedule daily, weekly or monthly by calling 1-800-690-6998 or 860-887-3561/

Lisa Ryan presented correspondence from the First Selectmen's Office welcoming Father Brian Romanowski as a member of the Stonington Commission on Aging.

Lisa also reminded the Commission that the Senior Service Provider Network of Stonington Agencies meets every other month to discuss services that are available in the area, identify needs and identify opportunities for agencies to collaborate to bring needed services to seniors.

Lisa introduced information about the TVCCA RSVP Grocery Shopping program for the homebound. Volunteers are needed for that program. She also stated that Brian Cosgrove of TVCCA runs a day program through the Department of Disability Services. Participants of the program go to senior centers in various parts of Connecticut to participate in different activities. Lisa would like to present this idea to June Strunk, Liaison to Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center to see if we could also offer such a program.

Motion to adjourn made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Betty Croteau. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Karen Hawthorn
Secretary**