

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
December 2, 2010**

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on December 1, 2010 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, George Brennan, R.J. Connelly, III, Betty Croteau, Robert Elmer, Karen Hawthorn, Father Brian Romanowski, Lisa Ryan and Billie Ward. Also attending: Carol Umphlett, Agent for the Elderly of Stonington Human Services, Stonington High School Citizens in Action Students: J. Beebe, Colby H. Unable to attend were: Stacy Cassata, Betty Henry, Toni Potter.

Late Arrivals: First Selectman Ed Haberek 4:12

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Ryan at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes of the November 3, 2010 meeting were presented. Motion to correct spelling of Virginia Turek's name and accept minutes and place on file made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Betty Croteau. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett, Agent for the Elderly, Stonington Human Services stated that she is taking applications for Energy Assistance and ConnPace Applications. Renter's Rebate checks are beginning to be received now.

Correspondence and Announcements: Chair, Lisa Ryan, announced that the Commission has two new members: Betty Henry and R.J. Connelly, III. She announced that Toni Potter is on leave and hopes to return in January 2011.

Academy Point is holding its annual Wreath Stroll on December 2. All proceeds art to benefit the Family Caregiver Grant.

Lisa added that the Stonington service providers meeting had a speaker from Connecticut Protective Services who spoke to the group about Elder Abuse and Exploitation.

Lisa reported that the attendance for the new Lunch and Learn Program is going well and has had great attendance.

Financial Secretary's Report was unavailable. Financial Secretary, Billie Ward, will have a complete report at the January 2011 meeting.

Lisa Ryan, legislative liaison for the Stonington COA, reported that there is no legislative news to report.

June Strunk, President of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Board and Liaison to the Stonington Commission on Aging was not present but provided the following report. The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center distributed 515 Thanksgiving dinners, one-third of which went to seniors. P.N.C. expects to deliver the same number for Christmas. The P.N.C. expects its new bus to arrive next week. Rides and meals and Meals on Wheels updates will be available at the January 2011 meeting.

First Selectman, Ed Haberek, stated that after the holidays the search for affordable senior housing will resume. There are two possible properties to consider at this time. A task force will be formed and will include a member from the Stonington Commission on Aging.

Ed stated that he is hearing from a number of seniors in the community who are struggling due to difficulties in their month to month finances related to the bad economy and joblessness.

Ed reported that he is now working with Keep Space Westerly and they are looking at the possibility of rail transportation and Amtrak North coming into the Westerly-Boston area.

Ed said that the budget considerations will begin in January. Towns and local agencies may see the trickle down effect of budget deficits. Ed encouraged the Commission to participate in budget meetings. He added that he would like to use Commissions and Boards for help with budget issues and concerns.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission voted on a nominating committee for the selection of officers for the 2011 term. Lisa Ryan nominated Maryann Bessette, Betty Croteau and Robert Elmer. All accepted the nomination. Billie Ward seconded. Motion carried. The Nomination Committee will present a slate of officers to be voted on at the January 5, 2011 meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:57.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Hawthorn".

**Karen Hawthorn
Secretary**