

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 2, 2011**

**STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on March 2, 2011 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, George Brennan, Betty Croteau, Stacy Cassata, Robert Elmer, Karen Hawthorn, Toni Potter, Lisa Ryan, Also attending: Beth Stewart, Director of Stoning Human Services and Carol Umphlett Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services. Unable to attend: Betty Henry and Billie Ward.

Guests: June Strunk, President of the PNC Board of Directors. Students attending from The Stonington High School Citizens in Action were Kailey Boozam and Rachel Banker.

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Ryan at 4:03 p.m.

Minutes from the January meeting were presented. Motion to accept was made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by George Brennan. Motion Carried. No February meeting was held due to inclement weather.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Carol Umphlett. \$650 was spent on the Spring/Summer Program Guide mailing; \$315.30 was spent on RICOH Copier Maintenance Agreement and Alesco Phone System Upgrade (spread over four divisions); \$96.03 was spent on Program Expenses for a Budget Total of \$3,432.32. Motion to accept report and place on file made by Robert Elmer. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For the Elderly, Stonington Human Services reported that she doing much work with Medicare after the open enrollment period.

Energy assistance will finish at the end of March for deliverable fuel but will continue for Yankee Gas and electric through April.

Carol reported that the Lunch and Learn program has been very successful. Last month it was held at The Pendleton and the presentation was on nutrition.

Lisa Ryan, legislative liaison for the Stonington COA, reported that Congressman Joe Courtney submitted legislation last fall with regard to the Medicare and the "observation status" used in hospitals -vs- rules regarding a three day stay at a hospital in order to be covered by Medicare at a rehabilitation center. Congressman Courtney will be re-introducing this piece

of legislation in March. Lisa stated that since we are in the beginning of the legislative session, there is very little information about bills although there is still concentration on adding more Medicaid dollars to community services for home care for seniors.

June Strunk gave a report on behalf of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. On January 19, 2011, The PNC began using its new bus. As of January 31, 2011, there were already 1,426 miles on the bus (in eleven days of use!). In January 2011 the PNC provided 584 rides. 73 Seniors were served of which 57 were from Pawcatuck; 4 from Stonington, 2 from Mystic, 4 from North Stonington and 6 from Westerly. 30 seniors had rides for lunches and Activities for 256 trips; 29 seniors had 134 one way trips for medical appointments; 7 people transported with varying schedules to and from the Adult Day Center of Westerly for 110 rides; 13 seniors used the transportation for grocery shopping, banking and hair appointments for 76 one way trips and 2 seniors had rides for various social activities for 8 rides. Seniors averaged 140 congregate meals per week and the TVCCA prepares over 1,000 Meals on Wheels per month.

#### Correspondence:

Lisa Ryan submitted a letter for file from the Town of Stonington Selectman's Office confirming Robert Elmer's re-appointment to the Stonington Commission on Aging.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Beth Stewart reported that the Affordable Housing Committee continues its focus on senior housing and is looking at appropriate property. The Committee is open to new members and members from the Commission on Aging are invited. Betty Henry had expressed interest in becoming a member and may possibly attend meetings in the future.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Father Romanowski is no longer able to serve on the Commission because he has been given a new assignment in another town. Toni Potter is looking into another possibility for a clergy member for the Commission.

Stacy Cassata reported that S.A.L.T. met and decided that there would be three presentations for seniors (the exact dates have yet to be determined). The first presentation will be held at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and will be presented by Rich from People's Bank. The topic will be "Fraudulent Checks". The second presentation will be done by Attorney R.J. Connelly, III and the

**topic will be "Elder Law Issues". The third presentation will be done by Keith Beebe and the topic will be "Scams".**

**Motion to adjourn at 4:42 pm made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by George Brennan. Motion carried.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Karen Hawthorn*

**Karen Hawthorn  
Secretary**