

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 7, 2011**

**STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on September 7, 2011 in the Human Services Building Community Room.

**Members present** were:

Maryanne Bessette, Betty Croteau, Stacey Cassata, R.J. Connelly, Betty Henry, Toni Potter, Lisa Ryan, Billie Ward. Also attending: Beth Ann Stewart, Director of Stonington Human Services.

**Unable to attend:** George Brennan, Bob Elmer, Karen Hawthorn and Carol Umphlett, Agent for the Elderly-Stonington Human Services.

**Guest:** June Strunk, President of the PNC Board of Directors

**4:07 p.m.-**Meeting called to order by chair-person Lisa Ryan

**The minutes** from the last meeting of the COA, which was held on June 1, 2011, were not available. Secretary Karen Hawthorne being absent, Toni Potter agreed to take today's minutes. Lisa will contact Karen for the June minutes.

**Treasurer's Report was given by Financial Secretary Billie Ward.**

A preliminary report for the just ended fiscal year recapped a \$5800.00 budget with \$5315.00 being expended leaving a balance of \$ 485.00. 91.6% of the budget was used. Excess was turned back to the Town. A report dated 7/31/2011 shows a \$4800.00 budget for the next fiscal year with \$690.00 being spent on postage and \$500.00 being spent on printing for a total expenditure of \$1190.00 with a \$3610.00 balance.

**Motion to Accept Treasurer's Report–Maryann Bessette. Seconded-Stacy Cassata. Motion Carried**

**Human Services Report was given by Director Beth Ann Stewart.**

When the new IT system is completely rolled out it will be able to generate specific reports enabling staff to analyze data. With regard to Senior Programming HS is at the end of the rental rebate program and has already begun to take in energy assistance applications even though income guidelines have not yet been set. Beth announced that the Senior Lunch & Learn program is full and has taken on GO FISH as a new partner. Locations that can accommodate 50 people for these programs are ideal. The topics are being expanded to include a broader interest base such as a presentation by the Historical Society. The Monday Movie & Lunch Program runs from Oct to May includes a noon lunch at the Steak Loft followed by a 2 pm Classic Movie at The Old Mystic Cinema . A new ad in the Thurs insert will develop interest from general audiences for this program. Computer Classes are scheduled with HS Staff providing instruction on a 1X1 basis on regular days & times. Scheduling this with students from SHS proved too sporadic given the students changing schedules. The Farmers' Market Vouchers have all been given out.

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The Community Garden is winding down at this time year and it is noted that the Stonington Community Garden is praised as a 'Model' Community Garden in CT.

The Stonington Human Services Fall/Winter Guide has been mailed to all residents in town. Evacuations during Hurricane Irene were handled with the help of Mass Care Shelter Program and the Red Cross. Human services distributed food/water & ice to residents of Stonington Arms. 77 people and 7 pets were housed at the SHS shelter and included some residents from North Stonington. Of priority concern during the power outages are residents requiring Oxygen, and those who are bedridden. The town has a special registry of special needs residents.

**Legislative Liaison, Lisa Ryan** reported nothing going on concerning seniors at this time in the CT legislative dept.

**Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Representative, June Strunk** reported the PNC was closed on the Monday & Tuesday following Hurricane Irene due to lack of electricity and therefore no Meals on Wheels could be distributed on those days. She did note that, as usual, extra food is distributed on Fridays as a regular service as Meals on Wheel does not operate on the weekends. June recapped the June 2011 Transportation Report from PNC as providing a total of **838 one way rides for 84 seniors**. Passengers were comprised of 68 from Pawcatuck, 3 from Stonington, 1 from Mystic, 4 from North Stonington and 8 from Westerly. The rides were comprised of 232 one way rides for medical appointments for 31 seniors; 408 one way rides to PNC for lunches/activities for 32 seniors; 110 one way rides to Westerly Adult Day Service for 6 seniors with varying schedules; 80 one way rides for 13 seniors for grocery shopping, banking, hair appointments; and 8 one way rides for 2 seniors for various social activities. Two new participants have been added to the roster-a gentleman from Pawcatuck and a woman from Westerly now use PNC transportation for programs/activities. The Buick was laid to rest due to mechanical repairs that would exceed the value of the vehicle. The Executive Director is in search of a replacement vehicle. The old bus is back on the road having its electrical problems repaired. Total mileage on the four vehicles is: Buick @ 123,129; New Bus @ 13,309; Old Bus @ 148,478; and the Van @ 98,102.

**Correspondence:** None

**Announcements:** R.J. Connelly, Attorney at Law will present "Aging and the Law" on Friday 9/16/2011 beginning at 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Stonington Como. This event is co-sponsored by the Stonington COA, Stonington TRIAD & Stonington Human Services.

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**Old Business:** Lisa Ryan will follow up with Reverend Kevin Reilly of St. Patrick Mystic as a replacement for Reverend Brian Romanowski who was transferred. The Commission will be at 12 members with Rev Reilly's appointment.

**New Business:**

State Budget Cuts resulted in reduced rides provided by the Dial-A-Ride program. Emphasis is being placed on the Driver Medical Reimbursement Program.

**4:55 p.m. Motion to Adjourn-Maryann Bessette. Seconded-Betty Croteau.  
Motion Carried**

Next Regular Meeting-Wednesday, October 5, 2011 @ 4:00 p.m. in HS Community Rm.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni A. Potter, Pro-Tem  
Acting for Karen Hawthorn, Secretary