

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 7, 2012**

**STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on November 7, 2012 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Karen Hawthorn, Betty Henry, Lisa Ryan, Billie Ward and Alice Watson. Also attending: Carol Umphlett Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services. Unable to attend: R.J. Connelly, III, Betty Croteau, Robert Elmer, Betty Henry, and Toni Potter.

Guests: First Selectman, Ed Haberek, Peggy Kilmartin, Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Senior Programming Coordinator, June Strunk, President of Board of Directors, Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, Joanne Kelly, Leanne Theodore, Stonington High School Citizens in Action – 3 students.

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Ryan at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes from the September meeting were presented. Motion to accept was made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report for September 2012 and October 2012 was presented by Billie Ward. In October \$1,078.50 was spent in postage leaving an available budget amount of \$3,721.50. Expenses that are coming up will be outstanding expenses for October program Last Will and Embezzlement and the postage for the Program Guide which will be published in February 2013. Motion to accept the report made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For the Elderly, Stonington Human Services reported that there were 489 Social Service contacts made in April. Of those, 185 persons) were 55 years of age or older. Senior Contacts: Food: 26; Transportation: 15; HHC: 2; Special Needs Registry: 5; Social Security: 5; Energy Assistance 131; Financial Assistance Programs 4; Medical (Medicaid) Assistance: 12.

Carol suggested that in the aftermath of Storm Sandy, there should be a press release reiterating that if you are an individual with special needs, you need to register so that fire and emergency services can be alerted during disasters.

**Carol also presented a report on senior events on behalf of Kristen King, Human Services Program Coordinator. Approximately 57 people attended the event, "Last Will and Embezzlement" on October 18. Also on October 8, Senior Lunch and Learn at Mystic Aquarium: 48 attended; October 10, Yellow Dot at StoneRidge: 55 attended; October 17, AARP Safe Driver: 12 attended. Upcoming Events: November 16: Senior Lunch and Learn at Enders Island – Local Artist Pam Gordiner: Series Sold Out With Waiting List. November 21: AARP at Stonington Human Services – FREE FOR VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES.**

**Lisa Ryan, legislative liaison for the Stonington COA, had no new legislative news to share.**

**June Strunk, PNC Liaison, introduced Peggy Kilmartin, PNC Senior Programming Coordinator. Peggy will begin attending Commission on Aging meetings as PNC Liaison. Peggy stated that there is a new key fob swipe that will help keep track of who uses PNC services and attendance at individual programs. This will produce statistics and will be used to collaborate with other services and programs. June gave the following PNC event attendance statistics: For September 2012: Congregate Lunch: 168; Senior Recreation, Classes and Social Events: 498. Total Rides: 594. For October 2012 event statistics: Congregate Lunch: 102; Senior Recreation, Classes and Social Events: 309. Total Rides: 595.**

**First Selectman, Ed Haberek was asked to attend today's meeting. In introduction, Chair Lisa Ryan, reviewed the Commission on Aging's bylaws and stated that the Commission needed some direction from him about how to proceed with a Director of Department of Human Services and how to better fulfill our bylaws.**

**Ed began by stating that it is important for all agencies serving the elderly to come to the meetings of as representatives of their organizations. During the months of November and December, Ed will be spending a lot of time at the Department of Human Services to assess all the programs and jobs. At the end of this assessment he would like to put together an Advisory Committee to look at all the programs and decide if they would be better served if moved. Ed would like to see more focus on breaking the cycles of the people served by Human Services. He has some new programs to roll out such as Prescription Drug and Fuel Co-op that will require the staff at Human Services so if other programs can be move, the staff will have time for new programming. Ed would also like to see more collaboration between all agencies in town. He has been attending a non-profit roundtable group that has been working with a UCONN economist to measure the economic impact of non-profits in the town.**

**Ed would like the Commission on Aging to be more active in the affordable housing projects, activity monogramming and streamlining senior programming in the town.**

**Ed complimented the Department of Human Services' performance during storm Sandy. In the futer he wants them to be the clearing house to other agencies.**

**The ideas discussed as possible development by the Commission on Aging: Senior Nutrition Education; Dementia Training for Stonington Service Providers, Dementia Transportation, Elderly Abuse prevention and a town wide calendar that includes all senior programming and the location.**

**Correspondence:**

**None.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

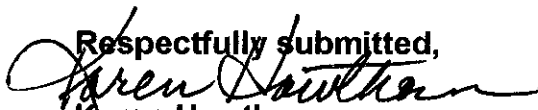
**The Commission discussed the possibility of placing a C.N.A. with dementia training on the buses. The Commission asked June Strunk to explore the cost of placing the aid on buses and present it to The Commission.**

**Karen Hawthorn announced that she would be staying on the Commission on Aging but will resign as Secretary at the end of December. She also reported that the following members' terms expire at the end of December: Maryann Bessette; Betty Croteau; Karen Hawthorn. If they would like to remain on the Commission, they will need to write to the First Selectman's Office.**

**In January, the Commission will need to vote on a slate of officers. It was suggested that R.J. Connelly, Robert Elmer and Betty Henry form the Nominating Committee.**

**Motion to adjourn at 5:30 pm made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Billie Ward. Motion carried.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

  
**Karen Hawthorn**  
**Secretary**