

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
October 2, 2013**

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on September 4, 2013 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Stacy Cassata, Betty Croteau, Betty Henry, Lisa Ryan, Billie Ward and Alice Watson. Also attending: Carol Umphlett Agent for The Elderly, Stonington Human Services. Unable to attend: Robert Elmer and RJ Connelly.
Guests: Ed Haberek, First Selectman

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

Minutes from the September 4, 2013 meeting were presented. A Correction was made: Joanne Kelly was not present and should be removed from attendee list. Motion to accept as corrected was made by Stacy Cassata. Seconded by Maryanne Bessette. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report for August was read by Stacy Cassata. Motion to accept was made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For the Elderly, Stonington Human Services reported the following contacts for September: Twenty-Nine percent of all contacts were seniors; **Food:** 26 contacts of which 16 were senior; **Transportation:** 15 contacts of which 4 were seniors; **Medicare:** 39 contacts of which 35 were seniors; **Home Health Care:** 0 Contacts; **Energy Assistance:** 269 contacts of which 102 were seniors; **Social Security:** 2 contacts of which 0 were seniors; **Medical (Medicaid) Assistance:** 28 contacts of which 14 were seniors; **TVCCA applications for the months:** 42 contacts of which 20 were seniors; **Renters Rebate:** 235 contacts of which 212 were seniors. The total amount of the rebate to date is \$119,037.14

The Program Report was presented by Carol Umphlett on behalf of Kristen King, Program Coordinator. There was a Dinner Train Day-Trip September 20th to Newport, RI attended by 14 seniors. There was a Yellow Dot at Stone Ridge Health Fair October 2nd. There were 100 people attending. Upcoming events and programs include Senior Lunch at the Aquarium October 4th. The Senior Lunch and Learn is almost sold out at this time. Boston Trip will take place on October 19th. A new *Knit to Give* group will begin meeting weekly on October 10th at SHS Community Room. Goods will be donated to area organizations for people in need.

Legislative:

Lisa Ryan reported that the Town of Stonington will have an appointed trained contact for Veterans Affairs. The First Selectman discussed this position and stated that the position would probably be a current Town employee. The purpose of this position is to provide local access to Veterans Affairs information and referral.

Correspondence:

No correspondence was received.

Announcements:

Lisa Ryan announced that there will be a fundraiser for Senior Resources November 7 at the Boathouse. This is a wine and cheese event. She provided posters of the event for members to take and post at appropriate sites.

Old Business: There was no Old Business discussed or acted upon.

New Business:

Billie Ward introduced an idea for a COA partnership with the Rotary Club of the Stoningtons and other possible partners in the community. The shared project would involve the making and distribution of "comfort baskets" for seniors who have an illness, have lost a loved one, are lonely, have special needs or are new to senior housing. The potential project would involve recommendations for recipients by caregivers, housing managers, or others involved regularly with seniors.

Many ideas were shared by COA members and several volunteered to be on a committee to study this project and make recommendations to the COA for a decision as soon as possible. Billie Ward and Stacy Cassata will call the meetings for this initiative and report to the COA for action when the group is ready for recommendations.

Ed Haberek discussed the Towns progress in various efforts to increase affordable senior housing. He will keep updating the COA as plans become known and/or approved.

Motion to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. was made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Alice Watson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



**Billie Ward
Secretary**

**Approved as corrected at the November 6, 2013 meeting
of the COA**