

**TOWN OF STONINGTON
COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2023

Members in Attendance: Stacy Cassata, Sue Peglow, Susan Sedensky, Gisela Harma, Chris Morren, Marilyn Riley, Nancy Houlihan. Jojo Kelly, Jenn Young

Human Services Representative: Michele Banks

Town of Stonington Representative: none

Secretary's Report:

- **Minutes** from October 4, 2023 meeting reviewed. Gisela Harma made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Chris Morren seconded. All approved. No November minutes were presented because the meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum.
- **Correspondence:**
 - a. Notice by the Commission Chair Stacy Cassata to Town Clerk about meeting schedule for 2024 to be held on the first Wednesday of the month not including July and August.

Finance Report: Sue Peglow circulated the November finance report by email. Gisela Harmon asked some questions about expenditures in November related to the VFW Seniors event. Michele Banks clarified that this was an annual expense supported by the COA budget. The scheduled performer canceled so expenses will be credited in next report. October finance report reviewed with October minutes. Both Finance reports accepted.

Chris Morren asked for clarification about whether the Lunch and Learn lecture series sponsored by the MGI were supported by COA and not the PNC. Sue Peglow confirmed that the Stonington Human Services had agreed to fund 4 programs and would respond to further requests as needed. Sue Sedensky will request reimbursement for expenses.

Programs/Events

- a) **Stonington Human Services-**
 - a. Michelle Banks reported that Medicare enrollment ends this week; Renter rebate requests has ended and the Energy Assistance program is ongoing.
 - b. Children's Holiday Party will take place Saturday December 8 at the Stonington High School; Stuff a Cruiser and Boot donation are scheduled for this weekend
- b) **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center**
 - a. Christmas Toy Donation and distribution is underway
 - b. Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner was the largest program ever with 787 turkeys distributed.
 - c. Lunches are well attended.
 - d. Food pantry is very busy with increasing numbers of families needing food support.
 - e. Chris Morren reported on the Lunch and Learn programs provided in October and November. Programs provide excellent content and could be better attended. Various marketing strategies discussed. Jojo Kelly volunteered to include in her regular time on the radio program.
- c) **Westerly Adult Day Program-** Jenn Young reported:

- a. Support Group for Alzheimer Caregivers is being held first Wednesday of the month 4:30-5:30 with registration required to : Suzanne Varhol 401 864-6614 svarhol@pace-ri.org. See Flyer for details
- b. Medical transport to Westerly is available. Stonington residents are welcome to use the services.
- c. Dental services from Wood River Health is now offered at the Adult Day Center
- d. Jenn informed the commission that the PACE program has been approved for the state of CT. Implementation is in progress.

Legislative Updates – None- not in session

New Business-

- Chair Stacy Cassata announced that a vacancy exists on the COA. She encouraged members to identify potential candidates.
- 2024 COA Officers- Chair, Stacy Cassata confirmed the officers for 2024:
 - o Finance- Susan Peglow
 - o Secretary – Nancy Houlihan
 - o Chair- Chris Morren

Old Business

- a) Nancy Houlihan reported back on 2 programs that had been recommended to COA members in September and October.
 - a. Aging CT conference held at the Acqua Club in Plantsville CT was an all-day program, addressing a broad range of state aging issues. The meeting was well attended by service professionals and governmental agency and commission members. Governor Lamont and his legislative members spoke and were encouraging about addressing senior housing in the state. Materials available for those interested.
 - b. Ocean Community Collaborative is a committee of non-profit organizations in Rhode Island and Connecticut. Invitation to attend their monthly meeting on October 20 at the Westerly Library, which was open to the public, was extended to the Stonington non-profit groups and emailed to COA members. The guest speaker on Affordable Housing was Nancy Letendre, Westerly Town Planner. She spoke about Westerly's various initiatives which included an upcoming survey about housing issues to be conducted by a consultant the town engaged. Stonington is to be included in the survey because of our shared borders. Organizers welcomed attendees to future monthly meetings. Dates to be identified.
- b) UR Community Cares program discussed. Meeting with company executive to be scheduled for February to gain further details. Representatives from Town agencies to be included.

Adjournment- Motion to adjourn made by Jojo Kelly and seconded by Chris Morren. Meeting adjourned by chair, Stacy Cassata

Next Meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2023 at 4pm at PNC.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Houlihan, Secretary

