

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

WEDNESDAY, January 3, 2024 4pm PNC

Members in Attendance: Chris Morren, Stacy Cassata, Sue Peglow, Susan Sedensky, Gisela Harma, Jojo Kelly, Norm Erlandson, Nancy Houlihan

Human Services Representative: Michelle Banks, Absent

Town of Stonington Representative: none

Guest: Gayle Wentworth

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from December 6, 2023 meeting reviewed. Gisela Harma made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Susan Peglow seconded. All approved.

- **Correspondence:** Email communication between Michele Puzzo and Chris Morren re: UR Community Cares Information for review by COA members before next meeting, especially the video.

Finance Report: No Finance report for December available for review, as reported by Treasurer, Sue Peglow. Sue did confirm with Leeanne Theodore that the 5 Lunch and Learn programs sponsored by MGI will be reimbursed.

Programs/Events

- a) **Stonington Human Services-** No report
- b) **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center-**
 - PNC Director Sue Sedensky reported that the advertisements in the Stonington Magazine have improved turnout for the PNC programs so we should continue to advertise COA programs there.
 - Stonington HS students are developing a film with interviews of Senior town residents. PNC is working with them to accomplish. Recommendations of seniors to patriciate are welcome.

Legislative Updates – None- not in session

Old Business

- a) UR Community Cares program discussed. Meeting with company executive Michelle Puzzo to be scheduled for February to gain further details. Leanne Theodore and a representative from Board of Selectmen to be included. Chair Chris Morren will reach out to town leadership for scheduling purposes.
- b) Town Senior demographics – Chris Morren reviewed town demographics to better understand the senior needs. More information on Town of Stonington website.
 - Total population 18,427
 - 25% greater than 65 (largest demographic)
 - median age 60
 - 6.3% living in poverty (2022 threshold for poverty a family income less than \$35,801)
 - Income distribution for people over age 65:
 - approx. 50% earn less than \$75,000
 - 50% earn more than \$75,000
 - 1/3 earn less than \$35,000

Group discussed strategies for outreach to seniors in need. Jojo Kelly offered to include information in radio program she can access. Use of Stonington Magazine may be more helpful in getting out information about services and programs as well as using the town website and COA mailbox to field questions. Review of the former handbook of services for posting on the webpage could be a new project. For further discussion.

New Business

- a) Rotary grant awarded- Stacy Cassata reported that the Stonington Rotary Club has awarded a \$1000 grant for the purpose of providing gift baskets to seniors in residential facilities. This has been a regular activity of the COA and administered by Stacy Cassata. Volunteers are needed to prepare and distribute baskets.
- b) Gayle Wentworth was invited to observe today's meeting. She has expressed interest in filling the vacancy on the Commission and indicated she will apply.

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

Next Meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 4pm at PNC.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Houlihan, Secretary

Nancy Houlihan 2/7/24



Nancy Houlihan <nancy.houlihan@gmail.com>

Fwd: UR Community Cares

1 message

Chris Morren <morrenchristopher@gmail.com>
To: Nancy Houlihan <nancy.houlihan@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 5:12 PM

Nancy, Please add email from Michelle Puzzo of UR Community Cares to Correspondence. It has a link to an educational video she wants us to view. See you tomorrow.

Thanks,
Chris

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michelle Puzzo** <michellepuzzo@urcommunitycares.org>
Date: Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 3:38 PM
Subject: UR Community Cares
To: Morren Family <morrenchristopher@gmail.com>

Chris,

Hi! Thanks for reaching out and taking the time to talk with me today. I look forward to discussing our organization more at your next meeting in February. I have attached our presentation as a PDF – I have audio of the presentation, and our annual reports in the link below:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XN7x43eMRc2sPVsqstYbUVQ15AedZWY8?usp=drive_link

Please let me know if you would like any additional information.

Thank you,

Michelle Puzzo, Executive Director, UR Community Cares®

860-430-4557

www.urcommunitycares.org

<https://www.newtownbee.com/10272023/if-you-care-join-ur-community-cares/>

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 **UR Community Cares_Overview Presentation.pdf**
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