

TOWN OF STONINGTON

COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 4:00 pm
Web Ex

Members in attendance: RJ Connelly; Marilyn Riley; Susan Peglow; Stacy Cassata; Ruth Nolder; Jennifer Young; Norm Erlendson, Susan Sedensky

Human Services Representative(s): Michelle Larese-Casanova

RJ Connelly called the meeting to order at 4:19 pm
It was announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Secretary's Report

- Minutes from March 4, 2020 were reviewed and approved. 1st Stacy Cassata 2nd Ruth Nolder. Commission members approved
- Commission on Aging Schedule for 2021 was discussed and will remain the same. Stacy Cassata moved to approve, Ruth Nolder seconded, Commission approved. Secretary will submit to Leslie Packer at the Town Hall.

Finance Report

- Stacy Cassata provided financial information from June, August and September. It was reported that the annual budget is \$7,100.00. As of this date, \$943.00 was spent on Printing and Reproduction, thus leaving a balance of \$6156.66

Programs/Events

- Stonington Human Services
 - Michelle Larese-Casanova reported on the increased need for senior advocacy during the pandemic. They have had 11,000(+) calls since March and 67% have been for those 55-70 yrs of age.
 - They are continuing to complete renter's rebate applications.
 - There has been an increase in need for Elderly Protective Services due to loneliness and isolation. To assist with some of these concerns' community groups have been coordinating their efforts to complete check in calls.
 - The COA members in attendance recognized the Stonington Police Department, specifically Officer Hersh, for their outreach efforts. A letter from the Commission on Aging will be sent to Chief Stewart recognizing officer Hersh.
- Outside Agencies
 - Susan Sedensky reported on behalf of the PNC. The food pantry remains open during the pandemic providing a touch free shopping experience. There has been an increase in the number of home deliveries being made. TVCCA Meals on Wheels had to shut down for a period of time due to Covid-19 exposure. They will resume services on 10/13/2020.

The PNC has not been able to invite back their 130 volunteers at this time. They did hire two new staff and have been able to purchase a new bus. The bus will allow for a return to transportation services for area seniors.

- Legislative update –
 - No legislative report was available

Old Business

- The Bundles of Joy doll distribution program is having a resurgence since the passing of Billie Ward, co-founder. Stacy Cassata and the staff at Stonington Arms have delivered 23 dolls within the last seven days and have had a request for 12 more. The dolls are being donated by Billie's family. It has been recommended that the program be named Billie's Bundles of Joy and the original cards signed "B" continue to be used. Stacy Cassata will reach out to the Director of Human Services for guidance with that request. There was also a request for additional support for this program. Donations, storage and coordination of requests and delivery are needed.
- Ruth Nolder provided an update on the COA notebooks she is creating for members. She reviewed the tabs and asked for feedback. A logo design contest was suggested. Ruth offered to contact Caroline Chapman from Stonington Public Schools and June Strunk, Selectwoman for more information. The creation of the notebooks is being funded by the COA Chair, RJ Connelly.

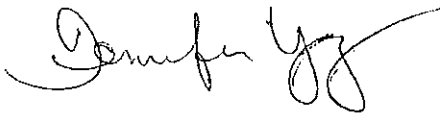
New Business

-

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn 1st Ruth Nolder 2nd Stacy Cassatta

Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 4, 2020. 4:00pm at the Stonington Human Services Building if possible. Webex link and call in number will be provided in the publicly posted agenda

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Young