

Barbara Suflypp

Commission on Aging
Minutes of the Meeting
April 18, 2011

Present: Chair Christine Robertson; Kathy Brennan; Marion Freer; Alice Kenny Lucas;
Mary Morrisroe; Mary Ann O'Grady; Sheila Silverman

Absent: Eileen Wilson

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christine Robertson at 2:35 p.m.

Minutes of the March 21, 2011, meeting were sent to members prior to this meeting. No changes or corrections noted. Alice Kenny Lucas moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Sheila Silverman seconded the motion. All present agreed.

Chair Robertson announced that Commission member Alice Kenny Lucas has been selected as the Resident Services Coordinator at Congregate Housing. She will be there from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Alice advised she has visited Orange Congregate Housing and has met with Ridgefield Playhouse management as well as Paul Roche of Ridgefield Park & Rec about activities and events for Congregate residents. She will receive "Choices" training. Alice is most enthusiastic about the job and its challenges! All members wish her well and know she will be successful!

SweetHART Bus

Mrs. Robertson introduced Richard Schreiner, Director of Service Development, HART Bus Company. Mr. Schreiner discussed Ridgefield senior use of the SweetHART bus. Seniors are averaging 422 trips per month, but the cancellation rate is high(16 to 23%) Since the cut in service, "casual" usage has decreased. Those who use the service consistently have about the same usage. Schreiner advised that 6 people used the "Mall" bus last trip. Alice asked if it would be possible for a trip to Target or WalMart instead of the Mall. Schreiner replied they would have to study. Chair Robertson commented it would be best to survey users for their preferences. Alice Kenny Lucas will draft a survey with Eloise Barron of RVNA Quality Living's help. Alice and Eloise will work with Jean Wolnick, the Municipal Agent for the Elderly. Jean will contact Schreiner. Mr. Schreiner also advised that the State is providing a matching grant for the "Mall" bus and the "medical" bus. Alice also questioned use of the bus to transport Congregate residents to the Ridgefield Playhouse and the Community Center lunches. Jean Wolnick advised that if Alice has demand—5 or more people—she should contact her. She will contact R. Schreiner.

In response to questions, Mr. Schreiner advised that the Route 7 bus is working and may expand. The Ridgefield to Katonah train station is a great success! Other questions were raised about bus drivers assisting passengers with packages, etc. Schreiner replied that

drivers do not have to do this , but many do. He asked that members get to him with concerns or questions. Mrs. Robertson thanked Schreiner for his help.

Miscellaneous

Wells Fargo is now accepting applications for grants from the Laszig Fund.

RiteAid will be providing free prescription delivery on Tuesday and Thursday. They will also deliver purchases over \$20 of other items. Rite Aid has a "Wellness Card" and other new programs.

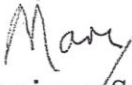
Alice Kenny Lucas and Christine Robertson have been reappointed to this Commission by the Board of Selectman for three more years.

The Fearless Caregiver Conference will be held on May 25th at the Danbury Plaza. The RVNA will be a vendor. Admission charge for "professional" caregivers is \$45. Family caregivers can register "on line" and will be admitted free. The conference is "on line" at caregivers.com.

RVNA's Quality Living at Home, the Redding Commission on Aging, and the Town of Redding will host a meeting "Redding: Willing and Able" covering choices for Seniors, Boomers, and their adult children at the Redding Community Center from 5 to 7p.m. on May 18th

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary Morrisroe, Secretary

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on May 16, 2011, at 2:30 p.m. in the small Lower Level Conference Room, Town Hall

Anyone requiring special accommodation due to disability is asked to call Christine Robertson, Chair, at 203-438-6165