

Commission on Aging
Minutes of the Meeting
March 21, 2011

Present: Christine Robertson, Chair.; Kathy Brennan; Alice Kenny Lucas;
Mary Morrisroe; Sheila Silverman; Eileen Wilson

Absent: Marion Freer; Mary Ann O'Grady

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chair Christine Robertson.

Minutes of the February 28, 2011 meeting were forwarded to members for review prior to this meeting. No changes or corrections noted. Sheila Silverman moved the Minutes be accepted as written. Alice Kenny Lucas seconded the motion. All present agreed.

The Chair suggested that the "Are You OK?" brochure needed an update. Mary Morrisroe agreed, but could not do this. Alice Kenny Lucas volunteered to work on this.

The Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association(RVNA) conducted a random survey on Ridgefield transportation issues with seniors attending the SPIF St. Paddy's Day Party. Results were interesting: 42% were still driving (with self-imposed restrictions-only in town, not at night, etc.); only 19% had used the SweetHART bus, however 41% planned to use it when they were no longer able to drive!(survey attached)

Ridgefield Housing Authority

Mrs. Robertson introduced Judy Barrett, Property Manager of Congregate Housing and Prospect Ridge. Ms. Barrett is currently working as a contractor for the Ridgefield Housing Authority. She provided members with information about her background—graduate of Assumption College; served in the Peace Corps in Liberia; Manager of Congregate Housing in Orange for ten years, etc.

The State of Connecticut sponsors Congregate Housing to keep frail seniors out of nursing homes. Congregate Housing provides one meal per day, one day per week housekeeping, staffing 24 hours per day by State mandate.

Ms. Barrett advised the requirements for residents are: over 62, income below 80% of area median income. Residents pay 30% of their adjusted income (less medical) with a max of \$1190 per month. There are also fees for services. Residents pay for their telephone and cable. There is no limit on assets—tenants do not have to sell their homes, the main reason to do so would be future qualification for Title 19. Since 1997, the State has arranged for assisted living services which are currently provided by RVNA.

The Ridgefield Housing Authority is in a state of transition. They will be hiring a Residence Service Coordinator for Congregate Housing. Ellen Scott is still at Ballard Green.

Chris Robertson thanked Ms. Barrett for her informative talk and invited her to attend future meetings.

Alice Kenny Lucas announced that a Fearless Caregiver Conference will be held in Danbury on May 25, 2011. The Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging is sponsoring this, coordinating with the South Central Area on Aging which will sponsor a conference in their area. Alice questioned whether this Commission would want to be a vendor. The cost for a table top is \$500. A brief discussion followed re whether other area Commissions on Aging would join in as a sponsors. Alice will contact other Commissions and report back at our next meeting.

Jeanne Wolnick, Municipal Agent for the Elderly, reported that the Town Energy Fund was down to \$625. Members requested that she keep in touch as we may be able to help.

Chris Robertson reminded members that the RVNA Health Fair will be held on April 2, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This Commission will not have a table, but Chris urged members to volunteer or attend.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrisroe, Secretary

The next meeting of this Commission will be held on Monday, April 18, 2011,
At 2:30 p.m. in the Small Lower Level Conference Room, Ridgefield Town Hall.

Anyone needing special accommodation due to disability is requested to call Christine Robertson, Chair on 203-438-6165