Commission on Aging
Minutes of the Meeting
October 18, 2010

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

Absent: Mary Morrisroe, Eileen Wilson

Old Business

- Minutes: Minutes of the September, 2010 meeting had been sent to members prior to this meeting for their review.
    - Sheila Silverman made motion to accept the minutes as distributed
    - Marion Freer seconded the motion
    - All approved

- Comcast Discount for Seniors
    - Marion Freer contacted Comcast about its discount for seniors. Comcast required multiple forms of identification and proof of income to determine eligibility. They also had to come to her home and change her digital cable box.
    - Marion accepted the discount and now saves approximately 10%/month on her service
    - In conclusion: Marion does NOT recommend pursuing the discount. Dealing with Comcast was time consuming, confusing, and not worth the savings.

- Handy Helpers
    - Jeanne Wolnick, Ridgefield Municipal Agent for the Elderly, provided an update on this volunteer service which is available to low income individuals.
    - To request this service, individuals should contact Ridgefield's Department of Social Services.

- Flu Clinics
    - Chris Robertson gave an update on the flu clinic at congregate housing and the flu clinic schedule of the RVNA (Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association).

- Congregate Housing
    - General discussion on the quality of the food, consensus is, it is improving.

- Ballard Green
    - Reminder the dedication is coming and will be announced in the Ridgefield Press. Governor Jodi Rell is expected to attend.

- Senior Transportation to the Danbury Fair Mall: Jeanne provide this update on the bus:
    - This new bus service is provided on the first Wednesday of each month.
    - Four people used it on October 6.
    - Feedback on use is positive, but there is a concern not enough people have heard of the service.
    - Action to be taken:
        - Chris Robertson will contact Rich Scheiner, HART.
        - Jean Wolnick will contact the Ridgefield Press.
        - Alice Kenny Lucas will develop an information flyer for Jean's use.

- Wonderful Wednesdays (RVNA): Chris Robertson plans to attend the next session.

- Non-driver identification
    - To obtain identification go to Department of Motor Vehicles; it is not available through the AARP.
    - Cost: $22.50.
    - Must show identification.

New Business

- Joyce Kuhn, Assistant Vice President- Certified Senior Advisor, Ridgefield Bank, provided an update on reverse mortgages. Highlights included:
    - Benefits to seniors
    - Changes have been announced on October 4
    - Description of differences in interest rate choices
    - Aspects of the home appraisal
    - Different options for handling closing costs
    - New counseling protocol for interested buyers

- Eloise Barron, RVNA, provided updates on the following:
    - Partnership for Long Term Care Insurance
        - Phone: 800-547-3443
        - Web: www.ctpartnership.org
        - While one must live in CT to initially get the insurance, one can move out of state and maintain it.
    - Boys and Girls Club
        - Will deliver the ice melt free this winter.
        - Discounted for seniors.
    - Danbury Hospital
        - Cardiac program will be available on October 23 at the Ridgefield Park and Recreation building.

- Alice Kenny Lucas distributed some demographic data on Ridgefield in response to questions from the September meeting. This will be discussed at the November meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Kenny Lucas, Member of the Commission on Aging

The next meeting of this Commission will be held on Monday, November 15, 2010, at2:30 p.m. in the small lower level conference room, Town Hall. Anyone requiring special accommodation due to disability should contact Christine Robertson on 203-438-6165.