

Commission on Aging  
Minutes of the Meeting  
April 19, 2010

\*Correction 4-24-10  
80 not 800

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

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

#### Minutes

Minutes of the March 15, 2010, meeting were sent to members for their review. The Chair. asked if there were any changes or corrections. None noted. Sheila Silverman moved that the Minutes be approved as written. Kathy Brennan seconded the motion. All present agreed. Minutes approved.

#### Miscellaneous

Chris Robertson distributed a handout "Visitability" (attachment 1) provided by Emma Lou Benedict, Chair of the Commission on the Disabled. Chris advised that Emma Lou suggested that we should coordinate. All present agreed. A brief discussion followed about new housing in the area, and the lack of understanding of senior needs by most builders.

Chris asked if members had a "File of Life" and distributed files to those who did not. Kathy Brennan and Shelia Silverman are scheduled to appear at the Board of Selectman Meeting on April 28, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. to renew their appointments to this Commission. Chris Robertson will attend the meeting.

Marion Freer suggested that volunteer opportunities should be posted in the Ridgefield Press as is done in Danbury.

Chris advised that the meeting of area commissions scheduled for Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, in Danbury has been cancelled. Danbury will try to reschedule for a week day, possibly from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. All agreed we could make the meeting.

#### RVNA Lifeline Medical Alert Services

Chris Robertson introduced Isabel Ambrose, Manager Home Health Aide Services and Lifeline Coordinator at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association (RVNA). Mrs. Ambrose provided members with information and handouts about Lifeline and the new Lifeline model. With this new model, it is not necessary to press the button if you fall. There is a sensor at the back. If you do not get up in 30 seconds, a Lifeline Associate will contact you to see if you are "ok". The Associate will assess the situation and take appropriate action. If a person has the old model it can be upgraded. Lifeline can work for someone with a pacemaker. Arrangements can be made for a subscriber to take it with them on vacation. The installation charge of \$50 is waived for a Ridgefield resident with a Gold Card. The monthly charge is \$55.

#### Quality Living in Ridgefield

Eloise Barron reported that the seminar held at the Library on April 14<sup>th</sup> was a great success. There were about 80\* attendees and comments were positive (attendees did

want a Q.& A. session after each speaker) Eloise advised of free services available for seniors:

- Free 911 cell phones
- Ridgefield Fire Department will install or replace batteries for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Home safety evaluations by Police and Fire Departments (See attached letter)

Eloise noted that the RVNA is starting up its Friendly Visitor Program. Those signing up will commit to visit the client one hour per week for one year. If the visitor plans to transport the client, there is another form to complete.

#### Caregiver Conference

Alice Kenny Lucas reported that she had contacted the Western Area Agency on Aging, and they are very interested in supporting a Caregiver Conference in this area. The Caregiver Media Group also looks forward to bringing the "Fearless Caregiver Conference" to the Danbury. Alice advised that the Western Area Agency on Aging is willing to put up \$5,000 toward the \$9,000 cost. The Conference will probably take place next spring. Other sponsors will be necessary. Alice thought that possibly other area Commissions might want to be involved. Pat Waas of the Western Area Agency can come to our May Meeting. Discussion followed and members indicated they would be willing to become involved in work for Conference.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrisroe, Secretary

The next meeting of this Commission will be held at 2:30 p.m., May 17, 2010, in the Small Lower Level Conference Room, Town Hall

Anyone requiring special accommodation due to disability is asked to contact the Chair Christine Robertson on 203-438--6165