

Commission on Aging
Minutes of the Meeting
June 21, 2010

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

Absent: Alice Kenny Lucas

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

Minutes

Minutes of the May 17, 2010, were sent to members for their review prior to this meeting. The Chair asked for changes or correction. None noted. Mary Ann O'Grady moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Sheila Silverman seconded the motion. All present agreed.

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Chris Robertson introduced Jeanne Wolnick, the new Municipal Agent for the Elderly and advised that Jeanne will attend meetings of this Commission every month. In response to questions re the Ridgefield Food Pantry, Jeanne advised that she oversees the pantry. When Social Services has a full time secretary, she will handle the pantry under Jeanne's supervision. At present only Jean and her trained volunteers have access to the pantry. Eileen and Chris noted that the RVNA has a small food pantry for their needy patients and needs more food—particularly low sodium and sugar free items. Jeanne asked that the RVNA call, and she will arrange for food from the pantry. Many groups--churches, the Temple, NCL, Scouts, etc.—run food drives. Jeanne can request donations of low sodium and sugar free products.

Fearless Caregiver Conference

Commission member Alice Kenny Lucas sent all members information on this proposed conference prior to this meeting. Since Alice was not able to join the meeting by speaker phone as planned, Chair Robertson asked members to discuss their feelings, questions, and comments about the conference. Considerable discussion ensued e.g. How will invited caregivers be selected, particularly Ridgefield caregivers? Founders Hall and the RVNA also run meetings for caregivers. Grants to this Commission must be used for Ridgefield senior citizens only, etc. It was decided to table further discussion until our next meeting when Alice Kenny Lucas will be present to provide further information.

We Green

Chair Robinson introduced Andrea Hutter of We Green, a new consumer networking group. This group is working with RACE (Ridgefield Action Committee for the Environment). We Green's initial focus is to assist consumers by providing them with information about switching their electric generation to one less expensive than C.L.&P. and hopefully one with more renewable energy. The We Green group researched EGS vendors and recommends Viridian and/or Dominion's variable rate plans. They will also

be researching fuel oil suppliers. The group is in the formative stage. Representatives of We Green will be speaking with various Ridgefield groups. Ms. Hutter advised that there will be no charge for membership in the pre pilot . Membership in the pilot will be \$12, then an annual charge of \$50. A web site for the group is under development.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrisroe, Secretary

The next meeting of this Commission will be held on July 19, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. in the small Lower Level Conference Room, Ridgefield Town Hall.

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