

[NOTE: These minutes are made available to the public prior to Senior Citizen Advisory Committee acceptance.]

SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2008

Present: Jane-Helen Ross, Gerri Roberts, Estelle Knurek, Donna Mattison, Grace Piencikowski, Joe Mehan, Claire Mehan, Caroline Tedone, Kathi Liberman, Christine Taylor, Nancy Stilwell

Citizens in Attendance: Chester Willard, Betty Willard

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

Minutes: The [minutes of the February meeting](#) were accepted as printed.

Old Business:

Joe Mehan provided an update on the Emergency Preparedness program to be presented on May 8, 2008 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. He will be responsible for sending out press releases. Donna will contact Chanel 14. Wethersfield Health Care Center will probably provide refreshments (not yet certain). If not, middle and high school students may do some baking as a community service project for the event. Kathi Liberman reported that Dick Fippinger has provided information on dealing with pets, assisting seniors and assisting people with special needs during an emergency. There will be handouts and favors to distribute at the event.

New Business: None

Reports:

- Council - Gerri Roberts reported that Council is about to start the budget process and will be working hard to keep the tax rates down
- Wethersfield Housing Authority - Kathi Liberman reported that there is a lot of activity surrounding tax filing related to the economic stimulus payments. They are working with AARP and other resources to assist people. They are planning an intergenerational event with the middle school. The waiting list for housing in the Town has been closed because it is full and they cannot accept any applications at this time.
- Clergy - no report
- AARP - Jane Helen Ross reported that several AARP board members are ill and they are short staffed at this time. They are trying to fill positions and use substitutes in the meantime. They did have a program on financial abuse in the past month.
- Elderly Service - Chris Taylor reported that there will be training for new volunteers for the Friendly Visitor and Friendly Shopper programs on April 9th. The Renter Rebate schedule has been set for the outreach dates that occur between May 15 and September 15. Energy assistance for gas and electric is available until May 1st. CRT has a grocery delivery service available to seniors, but they must order a \$40 minimum plus \$1 for delivery. The Veteran's Express Van will be at the Community Center on April 8th. There is legislation pending to change the laws related to living wills during this session.
- WACPD - Chris Taylor reported that funds are being raised for the Special Olympics and there will be a picnic for people with disabilities on July 9th.
- Seniors Club - Carol Tedone reported that the club had a corned beef dinner on March 12th and 108 people attended. They have raised \$500 for Dollars for Scholars and \$100 for Meals on Wheels.

- Social Services/Senior Center -Donna Mattison reported that blood pressure screening will now be available every Wednesday. She passed out a schedule of events for the upcoming weeks. Dental Screenings will be offered through a grant to the Central Connecticut Health District - times to be announced. The Department is still taking appointments for tax preparation although few times are left. AARP is setting up separate times to assist those who are filing only for the tax stimulus payments as these forms require less time. Nancy Stilwell reported that we are actively seeking volunteers for the ITN transportation program and she recently met with a group of potential volunteers from the Evangelical Free Church. She also reported that use of the food bank is up dramatically: a comparison of February '08 with February '07 showed a 34% increase in the number of families and a 54% increase in the number of individuals. The Department is anticipating increased demand on all resources due to the current economic downturn.

The meeting was adjourned at 3: 55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stilwell, Ph.D.
Director, Social and Youth Services