

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
January 2, 2008
STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on January 2, 2008 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were Maryann Bessette, Stacy Cassata, Faith Claspell, Betty Croteau, Robert Elmer, Karen Hawthorn, Lisa Ryan, Virginia Turek and Jennifer Young. Also in attendance were Alicia O'Neill and Carol Umphlett of the Human Services Department, Kathleen Crockford of the United Congregational Church of Westerly and Pawcatuck and Tim Sartor of Stonington High School Citizens in Action class. Unable to attend: David Schmidt.

Late Arrivals:

Toni Potter 4:08 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Robert Elmer at 4:04 p.m.

Minutes of the December 5, 2007 meeting were presented. Motion by Maryann Bessette to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Stacy Cassata. Motion carried.

Maryann Bessette presented nominations for election of officers:

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| Chair | Robert Elmer |
| Vice Chair | Stacy Cassata |
| Treasurer | Jennifer Young |
| Secretary | Karen Hawthorn |

Motion to accept the nominations was made by Virginia Turek. Seconded by Lisa Ryan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennifer Young. The following amounts are available for use: postage: \$4,304.00, reproduction and printing: \$1,100.00, and program expenses \$1,355.73 for a budget total of \$6,759.73. There is \$2,237.96 in the post office account and \$275.14 in the postage due account. The senior activities balance is \$755.00. Motion by Stacy Cassata to accept the report and place on file. Seconded by Betty Croteau. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett presented upcoming events which include a January 15 workshop on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, a trip to UCONN basketball game on January 19, Valentine BINGO on February 13, a trip to White's of

Westport for St. Patrick's Day and a workshop on Durable Power of Attorney vs. Conservatorship.

Carol Umphlett reported that social services made 760 contacts which equal 190 households. 32% were 55 years of age or older. 112 of the 190 were regarding senior issues.

Lisa Ryan reported on senior legislative issues. Sessions begin on February 6. She also provided a flier on a Legislative Briefing held by the Appropriations, Human Services, Public Health and Aging Committees. The briefing will feature the results of Connecticut's first Long-Term Care Needs Assessment in 20 years (Public Act 06-188). The briefing will be held on January 16, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. LOB, Room 2E.

Robert Elmer read his letter of October 8, 2007 to then First Selectman, William Brown. The letter stated the Commission on Aging's desire to fulfill its responsibilities as outlined in its bylaws (Article I, B and Article V, A and B). These articles outline the Commission's town-appointed responsibility to "plan, coordinate, develop and review programs to meet the needs and to improve the conditions of the elderly and aging within the Town of Stonington and shall provide coordination and linkage of such plans and programs among existing services."

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Elmer asked for ideas for the Mystic Women's Club grant which is due March 1st. Awards for this grant are in the \$300-\$500 range. Motion was made for the COA to request funding to purchase an interactive game machine called a "Wii" which allows users to participate in such things as tennis, bowling, etc. while seated or in a wheelchair. This interactive gaming system has been found to be useful in motivating seniors to be physically active and is utilized by physical therapists. The machine would be loaned among senior housing/senior agencies within Stonington. Carol Umphlett offered use of Human Services Department as location of picking up/dropping off the equipment and acting as a "loan center". All present agreed that was a good idea. Toni Potter will write the grant proposal. Motion by Lisa Ryan for COA to apply for funds for Wii. Seconded by Maryann Bessette. Motion carried.

Motion by Virgingia Turek to adjourn. Seconded by Maryann Bessette.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, February 6, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hawthorn, Secretary