

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 4, 2008  
STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

**Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on June 4, 2008 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Stacy Cassata, Betty Croteau, Robert Elmer, Karen Hawthorn, David Schmidt, Virginia Turek and Jennifer Young. Also attending: First Selectman Ed Haberek, Beth Stewart, Director of Stonington Human Services, Carol Umphlett, Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services, Unable to attend: Faith Claspell, Kathleen Crockford, Toni Potter and Lisa Ryan.

Guests Attending: Stonington High School Citizens In Action students: Andrew Hayes, Andrea Fossa, Dylan Campagna, Greg Abalone, Elliott Olivas, Nick Blanco

**Late Arrivals:**

Alicia O'Neill, Human Services Program Coordinator 4:17 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Robert Elmer at 4:03 p.m.

Minutes of the May 7, 2008 meeting were presented. Motion by Maryann Bessette to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Betty Croteau. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennifer Young. The following amounts are available for use: postage: \$3,745.02; reproduction and printing: \$806.35; and program expenses \$1,150.64 for a budget total of \$5,686.01. There is \$1,269.84 in the post office account and \$207.80 in the postage due account. Motion by Virginia Turek to accept the report and place on file. Seconded by Betty Croteau. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services, presented an activity report. The number of seniors served for May 2008 (300) has stayed approximately the same as the number of seniors served in May 2007 (302). Of the 192 households served (300 individuals), 51% were seniors (55 years of age or older) and of those 61% were 70 and older.

Senior participation in the energy assistance program increased by 18% this fiscal year with 240 of the 838 program participants being 55 years of age or older.

The heating season has passed and the Renter's Rebate program began (May 15) and will run through September 15<sup>th</sup> (when the Energy Assistance program will begin again). Carol will make appointments for applications on Mondays and Thursdays through September.

Carol also shared that she and Jennifer Young of Stonington COMO are in the planning stages for the Village Fair to be held on August 2. Presentations on avoiding "senior scams" and information on the "Yellow Dot" program will be featured as well as others.

Alicia O'Neill, Human Services Program Coordinator, presented an activity report on workshops and intergenerational events. The number attending the Living Wills Workshop was 18. A total of 41 participated in the trip to the Bronx Zoo. Upcoming events: June 7: Community Yard Sale; June 9: Drop in to play BINGO at EKR; June 13: Family Movie Night Mystic River Park; June 18: Appointments made from Living Wills workshop; June 21: Quincy Market.

Beth Stewart reported that the number of anonymous walk-ins and calls has increased 46% (FY 06-07 July to May: 1,557 - FY 07-08 July to May: 2,270). The number of identifiable, unduplicated persons served has increased by 20% (FY 06-07 July to May: 2,802 – FY 07-08 July to May: 3,352).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dave Schmidt stated that a tax increase on gasoline and diesel fuel are scheduled for July 1, 2008. He requested that we ask citizens to contact their representatives and ask them to put this issue on the agenda for the next special meeting of the Legislature and to advocate for eliminating the tax increase. Dave will gather contact information and send it to Commission Secretary, Karen Hawthorn, so that she can email it to Commission members.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

First Selectman, Ed Haberek reported that he has been investigating the availability of transportation funds that could be used for senior transportation. Ed is arranging a conference with the Director of Public Transportation, himself, Beth Stewart and the members of the COA Sub-committee for Senior Transportation (Stacy Cassata, Lisa Ryan).

Ed also reminded the commission members of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Stonington Senior Center project to be held on June 5, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

**Ed shared that he is speaking to the President of EHDOC about the possibility of building a second Stonington Arms. He announced that there will be a press release on June 20, regarding affordable housing.**

**Carol Umphlett announced that we have received a \$250.00 grant from the Mystic Women's Club for the purchase of the Wii Interactive Gaming System. A letter of thanks will be sent by Commission Secretary, Karen Hawthorn.**

**Motion to adjourn by Maryann Bessette . Seconded by Virginia Turek. Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:40**

**NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, July 2, 2008.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen Hawthorn, Secretary**