

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 5, 2008  
STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

**Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on March 5, 2008 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Faith Claspell, Betty Croteau, Robert Elmer, Karen Hawthorn, Kathleen Crockford, Lisa Ryan, David Schmidt, Virginia Turek and Jennifer Young. Unable to attend: Stacy Cassata.

**Late Arrivals:**

Toni Potter 4:05

First Selectman Ed Haberek 4:12 p.m.

Alicia O'Neill 4:21 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Robert Elmer at 4:02 p.m.

Minutes of the February 6, 2008 meeting were presented. Motion by Lisa Ryan to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Virginia Turek. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennifer Young. The following amounts are available for use: postage: \$4,304.00, reproduction and printing: \$806.35, and program expenses \$1,263.43 for a budget total of \$6,373.78. There is \$1,932.42 in the post office account and \$275.14 in the postage due account. Motion by Virginia Turek to accept the report and place on file. Seconded by Jennifer Young. Motion carried.

Bob Elmer introduced new Commission On Aging member, Rev. Kathleen Crockford, of the United Congregational Church of Westerly/Pawcatuck.

Alicia O'Neill presented an activity report on recent and upcoming events: The Valentine Bingo at EKR with drop-in kids – 10 children and 7 seniors attended; Senior Outreach for 911 Cell Phones – 2; Staph Infection Concern meeting – 10 in attendance; Durable Power of Attorney vs. Conservatorship – 20 attended; Gray Matters Folding – 6 attended. Upcoming Events: March 7- Stimulus Tax Workshop at Human Services; March 12 - Whites of Westport St. Patrick's Day Celebration; March 17 - St. Patrick's Day Bingo with drop-in kids and April 18 - American Girl Place in New York City.

Lisa Ryan reported on senior legislative issues. She noted that sessions began on February 6 and that the Connecticut Commission On Aging has been

very active so far. She also provided a list of active bills and suggested that the COA members review the bills individually and identify specific bills of interest that Stonington COA may wish to focus on.

Jennifer Young stated that there are still available April dates for seniors to have taxes done free at COMO.

First Selectman Ed Haberek gave an update on the Stonington Senior Center project. The procedural and operational aspects of the new Stonington Senior Center are being discussed and construction will go out to bid on March 11. Beth Stewart and Vicki Andersen met on February 5 at the PNC and discussed management and programming for the new senior center. A second meeting will be held to discuss management and Bob Elmer has been invited to attend this meeting.

Ed questioned whether there is a way to create a general “clearing house” for information on town-wide senior activities and programming until the new Stonington Senior Center is built.

Ed shared that he has been approached about the possibility of senior tax abatement or tax caps for seniors. Ed is working with a tax assessor to identify the impact on the town. He is also observing other municipalities with abatement plans. Guidelines for senior tax abatement vary from town to town.

Toni Potter inquired about a local telecare program for the elderly. Lisa Ryan stated that Montville has a telecare for the elderly program and she will get information on it.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

A grant proposal for the cost of a Wii Interactive Gaming System with games and controllers was submitted to the Mystic Women’s Club on February 29.

Ed Haberek asked that the COA sub-committee for senior transportation (Stacy Cassata and Lisa Ryan) discuss ideas at the next COA meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Lisa Ryan has had an offer for the donation of a baby grand piano for use at the new Stonington Senior Center. The cost of transporting the piano must be paid by the Town and the piano would need to be stored until the center is built. Kathleen Crockford is looking into the possibility of storing the piano at her facility. A decision must be made by the week ending March 7.

**Motion to adjourn by Virginia Turek. Seconded by Kathleen Crocford. Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:07**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen Hawthorn, Secretary**