

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
May 7, 2008
STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on May 7, 2008 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Stacy Cassata, Kathleen Crockford, Robert Elmer, Karen Hawthorn, Lisa Ryan, David Schmidt, and Virginia Turek. Also attending: Beth Stewart, Director of Stonington Human Services and Carol Umphlett, Stonington Human Services. Also attending: First Selectman Ed Haberek. Unable to attend: Faith Claspell and Jennifer Young.

Late Arrivals:

Betty Croteau 4:07 p.m.

Toni Potter 4:10 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Robert Elmer at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes of the April 2, 2008 meeting were presented. Motion by Maryann Bessette to accept the minutes and place on file. Seconded by Kathleen Crockford. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Bob Elmer on behalf of 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 \$5,702.01. There is \$1,606.68 in the post office account and \$207.80 in the postage due account. Motion by Stacy Cassata to accept the report and place on file. Seconded by Beth Stewart. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services, presented an activity report. The total unduplicated seniors served in April 2008 was 159 (24% of total served); Of those contacts: Advocacy 7; Basic Needs 24, Elderly Disable Programs 53; Energy Assistance 88; Financial Assistance 25 Housing/Homelessness 10; Legal Aide 1; Life Skills 3, Medical 67.

Carol Umphlett also presented an activity report on behalf of Alicia O'Neill, Human Services Program Coordinator. The American Girl Place in New York City was attended by 19. The Yellow Dot at Stonington Arms was attended by 5. Upcoming events: Living Wills Workshop – May 21; Bronx Zoo Trip May 31; Living Wills Workshop Appointments made at May 21 Workshop will be held on June 18; Quincy Market Trip June 21.

Lisa Ryan reported on senior legislative issues. She noted that the priority issues of the Connecticut Coalition on Aging and the Connecticut Commission on Aging correlate. Priority number one is to promote state-wide tax reform to lessen the burden of high property taxes on seniors. A public hearing was held on March 24. Additionally, House Bill 5709 (Concerning Access to Quality and Affordable Health Care) was referred to the Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis on March 18. Ed Haberek stated that there was to be a special session on Real Estate Conveyance Tax.

Ed Haberek reported that a bid was accepted with builder, Rudolph Netch, for the building of the new Stonington Senior Center.

OLD BUSINESS

The COA sub-committee for senior transportation has been looking into the use of the First Student bus during “off times” when students are not being transported. The issue in question was the financial aspect associated with staffing for the coordination of the program.

Ed Haberek stated that he had investigated the availability of transportation funds. He received an email from the Bureau of Public Transportation confirming that there is \$37,911 available in the Municipal Grant Program. Beth Stewart suggested getting a copy of the grant criteria so that the optimum use of the funds can be made.

Stacy Cassata stated that perhaps First Student might be willing to help with scheduling. She will call to find out what cost might be involved and to verify the hours of availability for the bus. She will then relay this information and coordinate with Beth Stewart. It was also suggested that First Student might be “reimbursed” for working as coordinator/scheduler.

Ed Haberek reported that the date will soon be set for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Stonington Senior Center. He will have Joann check records of COA members back to 1992 for invitations. Betty Croteau will check for outside people involved with the COA who may also be invited and take a list of those names to Ed’s office by May 16.

There has been no correspondence from the Mystic Women’s Club with regard to the COA grant application for the Wii gaming system.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hawthorn, Secretary