

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
June 3, 2009**

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROOM

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Commission on Aging was held on June 3, 2009 in the Human Services Building Community Room. Members present were: Maryann Bessette, Stacy Cassata, Betty Croteau, Karen Hawthorn, Lisa Ryan, David Schmidt, Virginia Turek, Billie Ward and Jennifer Young. Also attending: Carol Umphlett Agent For The Elderly, Stonington Human Services. Unable to attend were: Kathleen Crockford, Robert Elmer and Toni Potter.

Guests: Atty. R.J. Connelly, III, Stonington High School Students from Citizens in Action: Lee Metzger and Henry Chemielinski

Late Arrivals: Carol Umphlett 4:12 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Stacy Cassata at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes of the May 6, 2009 meeting were presented. Motion to accept minutes and place on file made by Betty Croteau. Seconded by Maryann Bessette. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennifer Young. The following amounts are available for use: Postage: \$3,960; Reproduction & Printing: \$620.18; Program Expenses: \$382.34 for a budget total of \$4,962.52. There is \$141.10 in the Postage Due Account and \$16.52 in the Post Office Account. Motion to accept report and place on file made by Maryann Bessette. Seconded by Lisa Ryan. Motion carried.

Carol Umphlett, Agent For the Elderly, Stonington Human Services reported that the tracking system for statistics is under contract. One of the major benefits to the new system is that it can target and print labels on specific age groups. A small part of the cost of the new system will come from COA budget.

Lisa Ryan, legislative liaison for the Stonington COA, reported that the bill for the Silver Alert System (an alert system to notify the public when a cognitively impaired older adult goes missing or wanders away) has passed the House and Senate and is awaiting Governor Rell's signature. Lisa distributed handouts from the Connecticut Coalition on Aging which identify the top four legislative

priorities: 1) Support community-based services such as adult day care, transportation, and home-delivered meals to avoid premature or unnecessary nursing home placement; 2) Promote statewide tax reform to lessen the burden of high property taxes on seniors; 3) Provide continuing aid to municipalities to sustain senior programs to meet current and future needs; 4) Improve existing senior housing to meet needs of seniors; 5) Promote a comprehensive universal health coverage program for all ages.

OLD BUSINESS

The Robert A. Granato Senior Center opening was well done and went smoothly. The flowers contributed by the Commission on Aging were lovely.

The S.A.L.T. meeting was rescheduled for Friday, June 5, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Atty. R.J. Connelly, III attended today's meeting. He is now specializing in elder law and is licensed in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Lisa Ryan reported that funding to help with the operation and staffing of the new Robert A. Granato Senior Center may be available through grants from several sources such as the National Institute of Senior Centers (senior center must be accredited), DSS and Senior Resources (our Area Agency on Aging in Norwich).

Billie Ward mentioned that most banks (such as Liberty, Dime, and Washington Trust) will fund small grants that could help with the operations of the new senior center.

Stacy Cassata stated that the Commission on Aging will need to determine what its role will be with regard to the new senior center now that it is complete.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Karen Hawthorn
Secretary**