

**Commission on Aging  
Minutes  
Wednesday February 8, 2009  
Greenwich Senior Center**

**Present:** Jack Morris, Karen LaMonica, Lori Jackson, Kate Brennan, Chip Serrell, Kristen Browne, Claire Whelan, Sam Deibler

**Guests:** Chicky Krois, Gerry Christophersen, GREATS, Ruth Wilson, GREATS, Laurette Helmrich, Adm. Sr. Center, Ann R. Hagmann, GADC, Christine Edwards, Jr. League Sr. Task Force, RTM, Sheryl Coughlin, Jr. League of Gr. Andrea Brennan, MOW, Ross Ogden, Am. Red. Cross

**I. Approval of January 21, 2009 minutes.**

*Motion to accept minutes as amended that December minutes were also approved.*

**II. Chairman's report**

Still working on the roll out of senior tax relief so that the seniors will be aware of the opportunities that are out there. Sam has made various appearances throughout town. Jack drafted a "letter to the editor" being submitted under all commissioners' names.

**III. Old Business:**

**-Plan of Conservation and Development**

Reviewed chapter related to housing. Commissions input are represented in the chapter. There are also action items that have specific references to the Commission on Aging. Actions: 3.12, 3.13, 3.14 and 3.16 referenced. As the COA is listed in four of these actions put the COA in the position of deciding whether it wants to endorse chapter 3 and acknowledge the COA's role in those actions accepting responsibility for seeing these actions through.

*Motion to endorse chapter 3 and to accept the responsibility for the Commission on Aging role in actions 3.12, 3.13, 3.14 and 3.16*

**IV. New Business**

**V. Reports:**

**-Elderly Tax Relief**-Letter to the Editor reviewed.

*Motion to accept letter to the Editor and to circulate as needed.*

**-Multipurpose Senior Center**-No report.

**-Social Services**-Job cuts...there were 28PT and 28FT positions. Cut to 25 PT and 26FT. Homecare services will be affected. Those who are the neediest requiring more acute care will continue to receive services. Those receiving homemaker services such as laundry service will now be seen every three weeks. Neighbor to Neighbor saw an increase from 800 in January 2008 to 1082 in January 2009. Social Services have 1250 clients of which 942 are "seen and touched".

**-Nathaniel Witherell**-minutes submitted and reviewed. NW is exempt from 10% town budget cuts. They are 1 of the 2 departments currently making money. NW has been given 5 star qualities rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services. Of the 241 SNF in CT on 44 received 5-star rating. NW is the only SNF in Greenwich/Stamford with this rating. Town of Greenwich building committee...the original 17 construction management firms were rejected. February 17, 6 other firms were going to be selected and are hopeful a selection will be made quickly allowing construction at NW to begin January 2010.

**-Housing**-No report.

**-Senior Center Director's Report**-Program Coordinator job description rejected by LIUNA. Current positions are eliminated 7/1/09.

#### **VI. Director's Report:**

Reviewed draft of Savvy Senior which highlights Senior Tax Relief. Energy Assistance programs in town, digital cable transfer information and health insurance counseling also referenced.

#### **Community Reports:**

\*Ross Ogden of American Red Cross thanked Senior Center for supporting the very successful "Battle of the Badges" blood drive.

\*Christine Edwards, Jr. League, RTM attended a forum/testimony in Hartford...there is a legislative initiative to have background checks of caregivers who provide services.

\*Gerry Christophersen, GREATS....classes continue to grow with more participants and are very enjoyable.

\*Anne Hagmann, GADC...daily census is rising steadily. Various programs are being offered.

\*Andrea Brennan, MOW offered to distribute Savvy Senior in meal packages to assist in delivery of information to consumers.

\*Susanne Testani swimming to raise money.

#### **VII. Adjourned at 9:45am.**

**Submitted by:**

**Kristen N. Browne**

**Secretary**