

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES, APPROVED, MARCH 18, 2014 MEETING

Draft unapproved: January 29, 2014, approved March 18, 2014

To: All Commission on Aging Members

Re: January 29, 2014 Meeting

Members Present: Frank Contento, Sr., Claudia Giulietti, Katherine Lofquist, Joseph P. Villano, Donna Levine, Alan Fontana, Rodger Salman

Members Absent: Rev. Dr. James P. Morgan, Anthony Pacileo

Guests: First Selectman, Michael Freda; Scott Brown of The Green House Project and Valerian Gomez of Aging with Dignity

Staff Present: Judith Amarone, Director, North Haven Senior Center

- Ellen McDonald, Recording secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 on a motion by Claudia Giulietti and a second by Joseph Villano. The minutes of our last meeting on November 19, 2013 were approved on a motion by Claudia Giulietti with a second by Donna Levine.

Directors Report

Commission on Aging, January 29, 2014

Programs

Bringing in the New Year was held on Thursday, January 16, 12 noon. Eighty one members joined together and toasted in the New Year at 12 noon. The meal was catered by Zandri's for a fee of \$12. The menu was tossed salad, chicken parmigiana, ziti, bread and butter, soda. Members who wanted something more to drink than the offered beverage were allowed to BYOB, and trays of assorted cookies were served for dessert. For added enjoyment background music will be provided by Sal Anastasio a longtime friend and favorite in the senior community.

Dinner and the Movie "The Butler" – New to the Center an early evening dinner and movie was held on Thursday, January 23, at 3:30 p.m. We began with the movie and then served dinner 4:45 p.m. while the movie was still playing. Dinner consisted of: homemade wedding soup, grilled cheese with tomato, and homemade chocolate chip cookie. Cost was \$4.00 Transportation was made available for members who prefer not to drive in the evening. Everyone in attendance thought it was a fabulous idea and all looking forward to the next dinner and movie night.

Christmas Present Re Gifting Auction will be held on Thursday, January 30, 10:30 a.m. At this time of year many seniors receive gifts that are not needed or they do not have room for them if they live in senior housing. So instead of throwing the gift away the Center holds an auction and seniors readily bring in their

unwanted gift/s. Not only does it help the Center and it allows a senior to feel good about not throwing away the gift. All proceeds support refreshments offered daily at the Center.

Trips for 2014

Mohegan Sun, Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Westchester Broadway Theatre: Ragtime, Thursday, March 27, 2014

The Bushnell: Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Westchester Broadway Theatre: Mary Poppins, Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Mohegan Sun, Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Celebrate Italia; Aqua Turf, Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mohegan Sun, Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Celebrate Polka: Aqua Turf Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Westchester Broadway Theatre: Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific, October 2, 2014

Transportation

As reported last month GNHTD has proposed to end the leasing of buses to municipalities. In being prepared for this change I met with the Town of North Haven's finance director and it was decided to purchase the buses if the cost was in reason which they are ;\$7,440 for the two 2008 buses. A new bus would cost the Town up to \$65,000 per bus. In that they are in good condition it is prudent to keep the buses we have on hand instead of spending \$130,000 at this time. The transaction has not taken place at yet but will keep the Commission informed of purchase.

New Business

First Selectman Michael Freda conducted the formal business of the election of commission officers;

Chairperson: Claudia Giulietti was nominated by Alan Fontana and Donna Levine, all in favor.

Vice Chairperson: Rodger Salman was nominated by Claudia Giulietti and Frank Contento, all in favor.

Secretary: Frank Contento, nominated by Claudia Giulietti and Donna Levine, all in favor.

Housing

First Selectman Michael Freda addressed issue of senior housing, and introduced two guest speakers,

Valerian (Val) Gomez of Aging with Dignity and Scott Brown from The Green House Project. A short video was shown that illustrates the design of The Green House Project home and the type of services provided.

These homes routinely provide housing for up to 10 residents, groups of these houses can provide care for 50-90 individuals.

Michael Freda looking to provide senior housing for independent living and introduced the idea of the town getting developers who can build housing that provides skilled nursing care, and daily care, as modeled by The Green House Project.

Since the November 19, 2013 committee members contacted area towns to gather information about state programs or programs unique to their town for tax relief programs for seniors.

- Kay Lofquist: North Branford, West Haven: Neither town has freeze or tax deferral programs; Both have State program with \$300 tax exemption based on age/income qualifications; Kay had since read and cut out an newspaper article that states West Haven is considering a proposal to freeze taxes for seniors.
- Claudia Giuletti: Hamden, Wallingford, East Haven: Reported Hamden office was not helpful; Wallingford and East Haven have State program with \$300 tax exemption also. As an aside, Claudia reported that the town of Madison has a tax freeze.
- Donna Levine: Woodbridge, New Haven: these towns also offer State program with \$300 tax reduction.

Public Comment: None

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a motion by Claudia Giuletti. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Joyce C. Budrow Senior Center at 189 Pool Road. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, please contact the Senior Center at 203-239-5432.