

## COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES, APPROVED November 17, 2015 MEETING

Draft unapproved: September 29, 2015 approved November 17, 2015

To: All Commission on Aging Members

Re: September 29, 2015 Meeting

Members Present: Claudia Giuliatti, Fran Bartlett, Donna Levine, Frank Contento, Sr., Deacon Ronnie Bicknell, Amee Lunn, Alan Fontana

Members Absent: Joseph P. Villano, Katherine Lofquist

Guests: Fire Chief Paul Januszewski

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

- Ellen McDonald, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29, 2015, on a motion by Claudia Giuliatti and a second by Fran Bartlett. The minutes of our last meeting on May 14, 2015 were approved on a motion by Fran Bartlett and a second by Donna Levine.

### Directors Report

Transportation-To date the Center is fully staffed with one full time and two part time drivers. The full time driver works from 8am-4pm. Part time drivers work a nineteen hour week and provide morning and afternoon medical transportation.

June 4- Military Whist Card and dessert party was held for the first time. This game can be easily played by all and similar to bridge without the bidding. Members of the Center enjoy card games and due to the fun as well as simplicity this game has become a new favorite. Due to the fun and success of this event another party will be held in August.

June 16- The annual tri town dinner was held and this year was "Laughter is the Best Medicine" comedy show featuring comedian Larry Noiva. Larry was voted the best male stand-up comedian this year and proved to hold up to the vote. The towns that participate are Cheshire, North Haven, and Wallingford. Each year a Town hosts this event and this year it was held in Wallingford. Zandri's catered the event; baked ziti, meatballs, dessert and beverages was served for a nominal fee. Approximately 150 seniors attended this event; of those seventy were North Haven seniors.

June 18-Dinner and a Movie-The monthly event continues to attract seniors and all who attend are very happy that the Center has a new smart TV which gives a better picture and sound. This month movie was St. Vincent and dinner served included Italian sandwiches, chips, dessert, and beverages.

July 2- In honor of 4<sup>th</sup> of July staffed prepared homemade biscuits, whipped cream, and topped them off with strawberries. This is an annual favorite for all and all in attendance are always appreciative of the thoughtfulness to have homemade treats instead of store bought.

July 30- Lunch out at Jimmies. This is an old time favorite of the seniors sitting by the water eating and then taking a stroll on the West Haven Boardwalk. The next luncheon outing will be held at Sandpiper before the weather get cooler.

August 5- 2<sup>nd</sup> Military Whist dinner was held again however instead of a dessert, dinner was available to all those in attendance. This event was requested to be held quarterly by the seniors since it is an activity that doesn't involve a set skill and enjoyed by all.

August 14-Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Social Security. In honor of the signing of social security a party was held with a free luncheon and birthday cake. First Selectman Michael Freda presented a proclamation noting the importance of social security and how this program benefits our elders financially today as well as when it first began back in 1935.

August 21- National ice cream sandwich day was held and it was another event where the seniors expressed how much they loved the treat but more importantly the great events that the Center has bringing new and old friends together for an afternoon of fun.

August 25- Mohegan Sun trip with the seniors. Forty five seniors boarded the bus at 9am and returned at 6pm for a day of fun. For many they go for shopping and lunch. All others have fun with the slot machines and poker tables. Unlike some centers in our region which go monthly our Center only travels to the Casino's every quarter so this is an event of fun and one that may not create a habit.

August 27- The yearly bocce tournament with Wallingford and North Haven seniors was held in North Haven, the second tournament will be held in Wallingford. To date North Haven holds the Town Bocce trophy and while this is fun competition the members from both teams take this very seriously. As always North Haven holds a cookout for all in attendance and this draws a large crowd ending the day with food and fellowship.

#### Summer Health Presentations-

- Mouthful of Nutrition for Good Oral Health
- Arthritis and Joint Pain
- Incontinence

Farmers Market coupons were available to income eligible residents who are 60+ years of age. Eligibility guidelines are Single person=\$21,775 annually Couple= \$29,471 annually. Each booklet is worth \$18 and this season 76 booklets have been handed out equating to \$1368 which was used at the local participating farmer market stands.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program- Is a new program introduced by the State of CT and the CT Food Bank inviting senior centers throughout the region to participate. This program will provide eligible low income seniors a food box which will contain approximately \$50 worth of nutritious food and 2pounds of cheese on a monthly basis. The program will expand the efforts of the Town of North Haven's food pantry. In support and understanding of the need this new program was approved by Edward Swinkoski; Department Head for Department of Community Services and Senior Center. The Senior Center manager and Community Services staff Carla Riccio will manage the new Commodity Supplemental Food Program which is scheduled to begin in December 2015. More new to follow as the program moves forward. See press release;

*The Town of North Haven is pleased to announce the State of CT and Connecticut Food Bank have introduced a new program this year entitled the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). This program works to help improve the health of low-income persons 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious food products provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

*Qualified North Haven candidates will receive a monthly food package with an estimated value of approximately \$50.00. This program will be limited to the first 25 eligible applicants. All other qualified applicants will be placed on a wait list.*

*Eligibility Requirements: Elderly individuals (sixty years of age and older) shall not have annual household income in excess of 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (a monthly income below \$1276 for a household of one or \$1726 for a household of two for example).*

*Income eligibility determinations shall be based on the gross monthly household income, before required or voluntary deductions. Eligibility shall be based on income received in the month prior to the month of application. Monthly household income is determined by multiplying weekly income by 4.3 or bi-weekly income by 2.15.*

*Documentation of income verification must be provided. Sources of income verification include, but are not limited to, check stubs or statements from employers verifying wages, federal or state award letters or other official documents that verify receipt of benefits. Candidates must also provide proof of North Haven residency. Sources of verification include, but are not limited to, drivers' licenses and birth certificates. Social Security cards are not acceptable forms of verification.*

*Applications will be taken following a brief information session at the North Haven Senior Center located at 189 Pool Road on Monday, October 26th at 10am. Please call today to schedule your application appointment. For further information or to schedule your appointment, please contact the Senior Center (203)239-5432*

#### Staff & Transportation Update

Transportation-To date the Center is fully staffed with one full time and two part time drivers. The full time driver works from 8am-4pm. Part time drivers work a nineteen hour week and provide morning and afternoon medical transportation.

#### Old Business:

There is still a need for another Commission Member on the board. Claudia Giuliatti and Donna Levine will be in contact with possible candidates.

Judy Amarone informed the Commission that two applicants were offered the Part Time Driver positions recently and contingent on them passing all the tests required they should be on board at the Center by the end of June.

#### New Business:

Newly appointed Ameer J. Lunn was introduced and welcomed to the Commission.

Judy Amarone announced that the North Haven Rotary donated \$500 to the Town to be used for the Senior Center. The Center will sponsor senior(s) to fund a trip or program in the future, offering to those who might not otherwise be able to participate.

The Center will hold an Annual Holiday Bazaar November 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Center is hosting a program to make festive table runners for sale, proceeds to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. 30 Table Runners completed. A group from Tuscan Villa is helping out.

Fire Chief Paul Januszewski attended tonight's meeting to introduce himself. Regarding the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, he suggested the fire department might be able to facilitate delivery of monthly packages of food.

Housing: The Temple Pines addition is under way. Lexington Garden on Route 17 is affordable housing. 4 units in new complex on State Street are deemed affordable.

Woods Edge and Oakview are keeping their lists open.

Public Comment: The question was raised to the Fire Chief about the impact of additional housing on emergency service resources. Chief Januszewski stated that in his immediate goals was to collect data regarding the impact on increased housing and response times. Learned from the Chief was that North Haven is one of the top ten busiest fire houses in the State. Commission members thanked the Chief for attending the meeting as this has not been done in the past.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Claudia Giulietti and a second by Fran Bartlett. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at 189 Pool Road, North Haven. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, please contact the Senior Center at 203-239-5432.