COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 17, 2015 MEETING

Draft unapproved: November 17, 2015

To: All Commission on Aging Members

Re: November 17, 2015 Meeting

Members Present: Claudia Giulietti, Fran Bartlett, Donna Levine, Joseph P. Villano, Amee Lunn

Members Absent: Katherine Lofquist, Frank Contento, Sr., Deacon Ronnie Bicknell

Guests: None

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

- Maggie Maiden, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, on a motion by Fran Bartlett and a second by Joe Villano. The minutes of our last meeting on September 29, 2015 were approved on a motion by Donna Levine and a second by Fran Bartlett.

Directors Report

Thanksgiving for All- Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers along with other community partners is proud to continue the tradition of providing a prepared Thanksgiving meal to seniors and families in North Haven and throughout the Greater New Haven area. If you would like a Thanksgiving meal brought to your home on Thanksgiving please fill out the form enclosed in this month's newsletter and bring it to the office by November 9. Meals will be delivered by volunteers between the hours of 9-11 am.

Ronald McDonald Houses s as a "home-away-from-home" for families of children receiving care at nearby hospitals and medical facilities by providing inexpensive lodging for families who travel long distances while their children undergo treatment? Costs can be as little as $15 per day and no family is ever turned away due to the inability to pay. Every year a fundraiser is held to support the home away from home with their annual fundraiser Trees of Hope. In years past the Center donated a tree to be raffled with proceeds supporting their mission. This year we wanted to do something different and asked members to meet to make table runners to be sold in the Trees of Hope store. It was a great project and many thanks to all for volunteering your time supporting children and families who rely on the Ronald McDonald House; creating a home away from home in a most trying time. A round of applause and recognition to; Celeste Aconfora, Virginia Amendola, Janice Beilmer, Barbara Cenotti, Helen Kolterman, Eleanor Kovach, Terri Langley, Lucy Martindale, and Yvonne Tienken

November 2 Presentation- Do You Sometimes Feel Like You are Swimming Against the Tide? Dr. Susann Varano and Social Worker, Cindy LaCour from Hamden Health & Rehab Center presented and discussed how to navigate through the sea of elder care options. The presentation covered Geriatric Screenings; Medication Management; Differences between Assisted Living and Skilled Living Facilities; Hospice Benefits and Advanced Directives.

November 3 Make and Take Thanksgiving Candle-Seniors truly enjoy the make and take projects. This month the project was to use in their home, or as many stated, they were giving their projects to family members who hosted Thanksgiving. In December a Christmas Wreath will be made and because of the low cost it allows all to participate.

November 4 Lunch and Bingo – Homemade macaroni and cheese was made and it was a big success. While the program is titled lunch and bingo many come just for the homemade lunches.
Next month homemade soup and sandwich will be served for a cost of $3 per person which allows many to participate as well as having a nutritious meal.

November 8 Annual North Haven Rotary Pancake Breakfast - A note of thanks to Jim and Claudia Giulietti, Nick Casella, and Brian Havens for donating tickets to the North Haven Seniors.

November 10 Nut Ball Decorations – Brenda Howlett, President of the North Haven Daytime Garden Club, demonstrated how to make decorations from acorns, twigs, and ribbon. This was a free event for all, and as always the garden club did a great job with their demonstration. All in attendance left with a handmade decoration.

November 13; 1-6 p.m. and November 14, 9am-2pm The Centers' annual holiday bazaar was held. This year as in years past, seniors and friends of the Center along with volunteers, participated to make the annual event an outstanding success. Available for all there was a cookie walk, baked goods, pepper jelly, quilts, knitted items, ceramics, and raffles. Food was prepared by staff and volunteers that consisted of fried dough pizza, chili, hot dogs, and meatball sandwiches. The fair realized $3,800. All proceeds support the North Haven Senior Citizens and will support events keeping costs down for all to participate. All knitted items not sold are donated to Aces School in North Haven and to other churches in Town supporting their holiday fairs.

Upcoming in November
Wreath Making
Holiday Concert with Senior Songsters and Tree Decorating
Thanksgiving Breakfast
Black Friday Shopping Meriden Mall
All Day Bingo and Lunch

Old Business:

Judy Amarone updated the Commission Members regarding the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. She needed 25 people for the program to begin in North Haven and not enough people signed up as of yet. The program is still being advertised and hopefully the quota of people will be met soon.

New Business:

The Commission would like to invite First Selectman, Mike Freda, to the next Commission meeting in January to discuss the Committee he is forming to collect information on a Tax Freeze for seniors. Claudia Giulietti will call to invite him to the January 16, 2016 Commission meeting. In the meantime, some members of the Commission will look at the Towns that do have the Tax Freeze to gather information for this meeting.

It was also suggested to invite Arlene Herzog, Café Manager, to the next meeting to discuss the meals that are offered at the senior center through Life Bridge Community Services. Arlene has been a big advocate for the seniors in trying to have better meals offered to them.

A big thank you was said to the new Fire Chief, Paul Januszewski, for coming to the last Commission meeting. Everyone appreciated his time and his support of the Community.

Housing:

Judy Amarone told the Commission Members the Representative of Maple Woods came by the senior center to introduce herself, even though the building will not be completed for a while, it was still good to meet her and have a contact person if Judy has any seniors asking for information .

Woods Edge and Oakview are keeping their lists open.

Public Comment: None

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Fran Bartlett and a second by Joe Villano. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2016 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.