

**COMMISSION ON THE AGING  
4 Brush Hill Road  
New Fairfield, CT 06812**

**REVISED MINUTES**

**Meeting**

**December 1, 2015**

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday December 1, 2015 at the New Fairfield Senior Center. Maureen Salerno called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Secretary, Laurie Busse, took the minutes.

**Present:** Maureen Salerno, Chair, Cindy LaCour, Vice Chairman, Kathy Hull, Stephanie Shaughnessy, Julia MacMillan,

**Absent:** Katy Johannssen, Roberta Ilardo, Janet Loya, and Jeannette Sweeney

**MINUTES:**

Kathy Hull made a motion to accept the Minutes to the October 27, 2015 meeting as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephanie Shaughnessy, Vote 5-0, unanimous.

**CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Feedback on “Senior Matters” Community Forum:**

Jay Voss and Janet Telford were great responders. There were about 35 people in the audience for the “Aging Matters” Community Forum on November 7. Maureen Salerno would have liked to have done a better job of getting the word out. Noting that Ellen Burnette, Editor of the Citizen News usually gives us front page coverage with an interview of the guest speakers. However, between Ellen Burnette’s illness and Election Day coverage, the Citizen News did not run any “Save the Date” advertisements or give us any interviews or coverage. The evaluation forms came back very positive, the only negative feedback that received 2’s and 3’s were for the time of the program. The Commission discussed if this was related to the time of day, or the timing of the forum being right after the election. Usually forums held on Saturday mornings from 10am-12 noon have been rated quite well. Maureen Salerno wanted Evy Brescia to talk more about what she sees in her field of work regarding seniors who are not active physically and socially rather than the aging process. Perhaps she may have her come back and talk again on that topic. Not many of the “Needs Assessment” Survey were returned. The ones that were returned indicated that seniors would like to have better relationships with their grandchildren. There was discussion as to whether or not the question on the survey was understood. Future community forums will not be held right after Election Day.

**2. On Going Senior Needs Assessments:**

The Commission discussed circulating the “Needs Assessment” Survey at the Senior Center. Perhaps the COA can give a presentation on the survey on a day when Cindy White, is available and have attendees fill out the survey after the presentation. Discussion followed the best way to reach the majority of the attendees is to go each day for one week. Maureen Salerno will talk to Cindy White about her availability. The preliminary schedule is to attend Monday January 11 thru Friday January 15, 2016 around lunch time.

The Commission discussed the last time a big Needs Assessment Survey was done, was in 2004 by the previous Commission, however, it was this Commission that tallied up all of the surveys. The Library previously had the results on their website and also on display in the lobby. Discussion followed who may still have that very large print out. Secretary, Laurie Busse, will forward the Excel spreadsheet with the results of the 2004 survey to all members. The last survey in 2004 was very large and included 50 year olds and up. This new survey would target those 60 or 65 and up, noting that the 50 year olds who were surveyed then would now be 60 year olds and it would be interesting to see how they respond 10 years later. The COA will see if the Library can put the results back up on their website. Further discussion followed on the amount of time and energy it took to mail out all of the surveys as well as tally them up. Perhaps a Social Work student from WestConn can help. Maureen Salerno will see if she still has copies of the 2004 survey that went out.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2016 Meeting Dates:**

The 2016 meeting dates were presented, noting we will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month. Cindy LaCour made a motion to accept the meeting dates as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julia MacMillan, vote 5-0 unanimous.

**2. Senior Center Report:** Tabled

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**ADJOURN:**

Cindy LaCour made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julia MacMillan Vote 5-0, unanimous.