



**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES FOR THE
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm.

Attendance:

Present: Ron Bathrick, Kristen Brandt Donna Malley, Michael Nappe, Lynne Nielsen
Michelle Spader, Robin Wilson.

Absent: Richard Monico, Director of Administration
Sumit Sharma

Staff: Carla Picard, Secretary

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2023:

Robin Wilson made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 7, 2023, seconded by Lynne Nielsen.

2. Correspondence:

None.

3. Old Business:

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Energy Assistance: The 2022-2023 energy assistance season began on **Tuesday, October 4th, 2022**. Community Services continue to conduct phone appointments with North Haven residents on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am-12pm, and off times as needed. To date, **301** applications have been completed (compared to **182** applications at the close of last season). The deadline to apply for oil was 3/15/23. The last day to apply for gas or electric is 5/31/23.

Food Bank Disbursements: 35 households were served in March and 36 households were served in April.

Child Abuse Awareness Month: This was the Town's 12th annual observance of Child Abuse Prevention Awareness during the month of April. Signage was hung on the community bulletin board, 100 pinwheels were planted in front of Memorial Town Hall, color flyers were distributed for posting in all town buildings, announcements were posted on the Town website and Facebook page and press releases were sent to all local media. Discussions have already begun to find more ways the Town can play an active role in child abuse prevention efforts for 2024. Ideas include hosting a toy (and other essentials) drive to benefit BHcare's Children's center. Commissioner Lynne Nielsen made a small handful of blue awareness lapel ribbons in observance of the month.

Commissioners discussed further awareness efforts including placing blue awareness ribbons on the Memorial Town Hall fence. Many showed willingness to help flyering next year. Lynne Nielsen discussed the idea of making blue awareness lapel ribbons that can be used as a thank you gift for those who make donations to the cause during the month. Ideas will be fleshed out by next year.

DEA Takeback: Took place on Saturday, April 22nd from 10am – 2pm at Fire Headquarters, 11 Broadway. For the 23rd time, the Town of North Haven (with the support of the DEA) gave the public the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs.

142 cars drove through to drop off medications to return; a total of 9 boxes of returned medications were collected. An inventoried amount of 3,865 controlled substances were collected (including benzodiazepines, amphetamines, fentanyl patches and cannabis). This semi-annual event takes place every April and October.

Parent Resource Fair: Carla Picard reported that the Parent Resource Fair that took place on Saturday, March 25th went well. It provided a great amount of exposure to the breadth of services that the Community Services offers, including counseling services.

4. New Business:

COUNSELING SERVICES

Staff Updates: APRN, Dana Smart is providing coverage while our APRN is out on Maternity leave (likely through July). One of our clinicians is also out on Maternity leave as of April 21. We are still looking for an additional Counselor in order to be fully staffed and clear our waitlist, which has over 30 people on it. Emergency/ crisis support remains available as needed for residents.

Mental Health Awareness Month: is being observed during the month of May 2023.

During the month of May, The Town of North Haven and BHcare encourage people to participate in random acts of kindness. North Haven Counseling services will be handing out acts of kindness cards. Residents are invited to stop into the Community Services office at the Town Hall Annex to pick up these cards. The cards are intended to be left when a random act of kindness is made and to encourage the recipient to pay it forward. North Haven Counseling will also be promoting self-care and coping skills by handing out stress balls and providing other useful resources to promote mental health.

5. Public Comment:

None.

6. Adjournment:

Michelle Spader made a Motion to Adjourn, seconded by Donna Malley. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.