

**Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2016 @ 5:00 p.m.**

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Curt Symes called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present: Curt Symes, Sheila Torres, John Boccuzzi, Margaret Imbro, Barbara Bloom

Absent: Anna Wiedemann, Anne Rothstein, Ruby Ryles, Claire Theune, Lisa Krauss, Mae Schmidle

Also Present: Marilyn Place, Ann Piccini, and 4 members of the public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Officer Maryhelen McCarthy, 3 Main Street, reported that she and Marilyn Place have been working together on fraud issues that are common this time of year. Seniors have been receiving phone calls from people claiming to be from the IRS, attempting to gather personal information. Off. McCarthy will be getting Chief Viadero involved in the effort to educate seniors about these fraudulent calls. She will be scheduling a time for him to speak at the Senior Center.

Karin Aurelia, 23 Cherry Street, was happy to report that money donated to the gift fund in memory of her husband will be used to purchase 2 benches for the Senior Center. She also said that there is not enough senior housing in Newtown; Nunnawauk Meadows is the only development and there is a 3 year waiting list. She would like to see the COA become involved in pushing for more senior housing. Mr. Symes said that they have been working with Nunnawauk Meadows and whereas there is property there to build 60-70 more units, they are competing for funding from the Department of Agriculture. Planning & Zoning is sensitive to this issue and awareness is growing of the need for more senior housing. Ms. Place said she knows of 6 seniors that have moved out of town due to the lack of housing.

Louise Zierow asked whether Nunnawauk prioritizes for current Newtown residents. Members stated that the waiting list is open to anyone with no prioritization.

Sudha Gupta commended Marilyn Place for the great job she does running the Senior Center. However, with 5,000 seniors living in town, he feels that the center is disproportionate. Exercise classes are overcrowded. He asked why so little money is allocated to the Senior

Center; other departments seem to receive more. Mr. Gupta stated that he fully supports education but feels that the Senior Center is so far behind and seniors deserve more.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Ms. Place reported an error in last month's minutes. "Mornings with Marilyn" is still active and does not have anything to do with the former Senior Action Committee. The program does take place and acts as an "open door" for seniors to speak with Ms. Place and express any opinions, concerns, etc.

Mr. Symes made a motion to amend the December 15, 2015 to reflect: "Mornings with Marilyn is a program that is still being held and as a clarification has nothing to do with Senior Action Committee", seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

Ms. Torres made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from December 15, 2015 with the above mentioned change, seconded by Mr. Boccuzzi and unanimously approved.

Ms. Bloom made a motion to accept the 2016 meeting schedule for the COA as presented, seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved. (Attachement A).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: (Attachment B) - Mr. Symes feels that good things are coming in 2016 and hopefully it will be a very productive year for the COA. He reported that the C.H. Booth Library will be holding a series of forums and is looking for input from Newtown seniors. There is a strong desire for thoughts and suggestions from the senior population. Ms. Torres said that as a commissioner she strongly encourages seniors to get involved and attend the forums.

The Cultural Arts Commission has asked that the COA again take part in the Arts Festival which was very successful last year. They have also inquired about using the Senior Center Bus to transport seniors to various Newtown Schools Art & Music programs. Ms. Place stated that the driver of the bus must be a town employee with a CDL and have a permit to carry passengers. The current driver does not work in the evenings or weekends, so this could prove to be difficult and costly.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Attachment C) – The treasurer's report was distributed in Ms. Wiedemann's absence.

Ms. Imbro made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT: (Attachment D) – Ms. Place reported that Income Tax Assistance will be going on at the Senior Center from February 8th to April 11th; this is a great service and it is free. During the winter, Ms. Place feels that seniors may become socially isolated and depressed. Last year she held a luncheon once a month during the winter months

to encourage such people to come to the center. She would like to continue with the program this year and is requesting \$120.00 from the Gift Fund to pay \$2.00/lunch for 20 seniors for 3 months.

Mr. Boccuzzi made a motion to allocate \$120.00 from the Gift Fund to cover the cost of holding a luncheon for 20 seniors @\$2.00 each for 3 months, seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

Discussion took place regarding the Men's Breakfast and whether to include speakers. Ms. Place said that there are many men who would like to come to a breakfast to talk about different hobbies, etc. rather than listen to a speaker. They are looking for more of a support group. Mr. Boccuzzi stated that there are some who like having the speakers at the breakfast as well. Mr. Symes said in his experience with assisted living places, he sees a need for both types of groups; Ms. Torres suggested that both programs be offered. Discussion followed.

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY: (Attachment E) - Ms. Piccini stated that the fuel assistance has been manageable this year. Due to low fuel prices and good weather, there have been very few crisis situations. A total of 151 applications have been processed which include 69 seniors and 26 disabled. The Operation Fuel program is ongoing and will continue until funds are exhausted; Newtown is allocated a certain amount of money per year and 3 applications have been processed so far. Changes to Husky C and Husky D are causing people to look at other options to help with their insurance costs. More information on this will be provided next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Center Commission Status – The CCC will be holding forums in February. Their analysis and recommendations will then be presented to the Board of Selectmen. It has been stated that there will be the opportunity for Senior Programs to be run out of the Community Center. Mr. Boccuzzi wants to make sure those programs are not to replace existing programs at the Senior Center.

COA Newsletter & Website Discussion - Over the holidays, Mr. Symes and Ms. Ryles made good progress on the COA newsletter (which is different from the Senior Center newsletter produced by Ms. Place). Mr. Symes feels there that 2016 holds an opportunity to get a lot of things going and attain more senior awareness. At this point, Pat Llodra and Bob Tait support the idea of a COA newsletter and have agreed to work on funding alternatives for printing, mailing and electronic hosting. The question was raised whether or not the Senior Center newsletter could be produced on a monthly basis (as opposed to every other month). Ms. Place stated that there is only so much money in her budget to cover the cost of the newsletter, so at this time it would be difficult. Mr. Boccuzzi asked whether advertising in the COA newsletter was discussed any further with the First Selectman. Revenue from such advertising could help fund the Senior Center newsletter. Mr. Symes suggested that more facts and figures be gathered

and put the topic for discussion on the agenda for next month's COA meeting. After which a meeting can be scheduled with Pat Llodra or the Board of Selectmen to discuss further.

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning & Prioritization of 2016 COA Activities – Ms. Torres feels that the commission should focus on 3 of the most important things in planning for 2016. The following suggestions were made: 1) Grant Funding – grants should continue to be pursued to offer new programs; fundraising efforts could be used to help fund the building of a new senior center; 2) Senior Space – larger rooms are needed for certain activities; 3) Communications – including a quarterly COA newsletter and monthly Senior Center newsletter; 4) Senior Fair – similar to the Health Fair but focusing on seniors; 5) Outreach – forming a senior volunteer group and creating a buddy system to encourage seniors to join in activities at the Center; 6) Update COA Bi-laws. Transportation and Senior Housing were two other topics that were worth noting. Discussion will continue at next month's meeting.

There being no further business, **Ms. Bloom made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.**, seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann LoBosco, Clerk

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AH. A

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
COMMISSION ON AGING

The following is list of meetings of the Commission on Aging for 2016. Meetings are held at the Newtown Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, Connecticut, at 5:00 p.m.

January 25, 2016

February 22, 2016

March 21, 2016

April 18, 2016

May 16, 2016

June 20, 2016

July 18, 2016

August 15, 2016

September 19, 2016

October 17, 2016

November 21, 2016

December 19, 2016

January 23, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. LoBosco
Clerk

If you plan to attend this meeting and require assisted hearing devices or an interpreter, please contact the office of the First Selectman at (203) 270-4201 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Newtown Commission on Aging (COA) – Chairman Report – 1/25/16 Meeting

Welcome to our January 2016 Meeting and the kickoff of what looks like a very active and hopefully productive year for the COA.

Currently, we have 1 open position for a commissioner, representing either the Republican Party or Unaffiliated.

We will be voting on the the 2016 Meeting Calendar and discuss upcoming Information Forums and Requests for Newtown Senior Input by both the Booth Library and the Community Center Commission.

The Booth Library BOD are holding information gathering sessions, as noted below, and strongly desire Newtown Senior Thoughts & Suggestions:

Jan. 27 - Wed. – 3:30pm & 7pm

Jan. 28 - Thu. - 10am & 2pm

Feb. 2 - Tue. - 9am & 12n

Feb. 3 - Wed. - 7pm

The Community Center Commission (CCC) is completing their analysis and finalizing their recommendations for presentation to Newtown Residents and the BOS, BOF and LC. Dates for the forums are:

Feb. 4 - Thu. - 7pm @ Booth Library

Feb. 6 - Sat. - 10am @ Senior Center

Feb. 9 - Tue. - 7pm @ Booth Library

Feb. 13 - Sat. - 10am @ Booth Library

It is currently anticipated that the CCC findings and recommendations will go forward to the Board of Selectmen in 1Q16 for formulation into a Public Referendum. Although there is currently no dedicated space for any town functions at the proposed CC, it has been stated that the Meeting/Activity Rooms will be available for scheduling by Newtown Senior Services, as well as, other town groups.

In recent joint planning work with the Newtown Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) relative to the 2016 Newtown Arts Festival, the CAC has inquired into the use of the Senior Bus to transport Newtown Seniors to various Newtown Schools Art & Music Programs on a pre-scheduled basis.

At this point Commissioner Ruby Ryles & I have done a good deal of research on options regarding the plans for both a Newtown COA Newsletter and Website. Both Bob Tait, Finance Director, and Pat

Llodra, First Selectman, support the ideas and have agreed to work with us on funding alternatives for printing, mailing and electronic hosting.

Finally, 2016 COA Planning will begin to go forward in February with the establishment of our Work Teams to both fact find and report back to the COA on significant issues critical to the success of Newtown Senior Programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Symes

Chair, Newtown CoA

C. H. Booth Library Needs You!

Your thoughts are the most important ingredient in creating the best public library for our community.

We want to hear what you have to say.

No preparation necessary!

Please join us for a Library Focus Group Discussion:

Wednesday, January 27th 3:30pm - 5pm

Wednesday, January 27th 7pm - 8:30pm

Thursday, January 28th 10am - 11:30am

Thursday, January 28th 2pm - 3:30pm

Tuesday, February 2nd 9am - 10:30am

Tuesday, February 2nd 12noon - 1:30pm

Wednesday, February 3rd 7pm - 8:30pm

Sessions are limited to 12 participants, refreshments will be served,
and all sessions will be held in the

Conference Room
Town Hall South
3 Main Street

Please register for a session today at www.chboothlibrary.org or
by calling the library 203-426-4533

A# C

SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/R	C/D	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	NEW SENIOR CENTER	GRANT	BALANCE
7/1/15	Beginning Balance						43,160.00
7/5/2015	DONATION-TAUNTON PRESS-T-3319		150.00				43,315.00
7/6/2015	DONATION-NEWTON LIONS CLUB-T-3320		1,000.00				44,315.00
7/30/2015	TRUST DISTRIBUTION-T-5727			598.40			44,917.40
7/30/2015	Ck #18567- Holiday Inv#3 STAFF/GUESTS)	(310.00)					44,607.40
7/30/2015	Ck #19352- Alan Devillard(White House Speaker)	(100.00)					44,507.40
8/12/2015	S.C. TEE SHIRT- T-5958		10.00				44,517.40
9/17/2015	Ck #20233 After Gailolo- History Pres. Sep/Oct/Nov	(330.00)					44,187.40
10/23/2015	TRUST DISTRIBUTION-T-22697			598.40			44,785.80
10/29/2015	Ck #20628- CS Consulting & Services	(125.00)					44,660.80
10/29/2015	Ck #20875- Inaige One	(495.60)					44,165.20
11/12/2015	Ck #21130- Rafael Spammala- Music Therapy	(150.00)					44,015.20
11/12/2015	Ck #21092- Michele At The Grove- Deposit for Xmas party	(200.00)					43,815.20
11/19/2015	Annual Holiday Bazaar- T28729		2,463.75				46,278.95
11/20/2015	Bazaar Menies T30656		50.00				
12/3/2015	Ck #21428- Michael's At The Grove- Holiday Party	(725.00)					45,553.95
12/3/2015	Ck #21426- Sean McKee- DJ for Holiday Party	(250.00)					45,303.95
12/8/2015	Bazaar monies T-33152		20.00				
12/10/2015	Ck #21525- Rafael Spammala- Music for Dec 18	(150.00)					45,153.95
12/18/2015	Holiday Bazaar Raffle- T-34351		310.00				45,463.95
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COMPLETED EVENTS:

- AARP Income Tax assistance Feb 8 – April 11th.
- "Walking on Eggshells" The Journey of a Caregiver, interactive discussion Jan 13@11:30
- Recycle Bingo Jan 14th

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- AARP Income Tax assistance Feb 8 – April 11th
- Red Dress Friday " Heart Healthy" Presentation Feb 5 @ 2:00
- Valentine Iris Fold Feb 8
- New reading program w/ CAC Feb 25
- Cultural Speaker on Harry S. Truman March 10
- Lunch and Laughter Mad Libs March 11
- AARP Safety Driver Program March 20
- Lunch and Lecture on Foot Care March 22
- Fall Prevention Program in April
- "Walking on Eggshells" The Journey of a Caregiver, interactive discussion April 20

Trips:

- Mohegan Sun Overnight Jan 27-28
- 35th Annual CT Flower Show & Garden Show Feb 18
- Florida March 6-17
- Irish Eyes are Smiling @ Ace in the Hole productions trip March 17
- UCONN Women's Basketball AAC March 6
- Log Cabin In Northampton, Ma "Eight to the Bar" April 7
- Smoky Mnts. & Nashville, TN April 10-17
- Westchester Broadway Dinner Theatre "Man of La Mancha" April 21

New programs:

1. Inter-generational craft program w/ CAC ongoing every 2nd Thursday
2. Bible Study Wednesdays @ 2:30
3. Mornings with Marilyn ongoing every morning
4. Keno sponsored by Golden Opportunities every 1st Wednesday @ 2:00
5. Inter-generational "Tips and Tricks on everyday technology" ongoing every Friday @ 2:30
6. Reading program w/ CAC every 4th Thursday @ 10:00
7. Ongoing Hot Dog luncheon once a month

More Upcoming Events for Seniors:

For the new year several cultural speakers have been scheduled, 3 senior picnics, 6 AARP Driving Safety Programs, 12 Lunch and Learns, 24 day trips, 12 overnight trips, 6 senior gatherings w/ Nunnawauk Meadows ...more to come.

Through the Dept. of Health and BVNA a Fall Prevention Program will be starting in April...Dates not yet confirmed.

In Feb/March TRIAD Frauds and Scams updates w/ introducing the new Chief of Police to the Seniors . Date is still being finalized.

Eagle Scout Service Project....Life Scout Sebastian Allan Fotinopoulos...update... was a wonderful experience for those seniors who participated.

Happy New Year

Keeping the seniors busy and active.

Marilyn



AH-E



Ann Piccini <ann.piccini@newtown-ct.gov>

Commission on Aging meeting January 25, 2016

1 message

Ann Piccini <ann.piccini@newtown-ct.gov>
To: Curt Symes <CurtSymes@aol.com>

Thu, Jan 21, 2016 at 6:36 PM

Municipal Agent for the Elderly / Director of Social Services

CAAWC (Community Action Agency of Western Ct) State Fuel Applications
Completed One Hundred Fifty One. Sixty-nine are seniors and twenty-six are disabled.

Operation Fuel. This program is a non profit. Depending on donations I am allocated so much money for each of their programs. If they get more donations during winter or summer program time then they give me additional monies. I can only complete applications till I run out of the money allocated for Newtown. An applicant can only apply once a year and the household has to be low income. I have completed three applications.

Elderly and disabled in there fifty to sixty-five that were receiving Husky C and Husky D are now receiving letters from the State. I had two this week and have to look into what they should apply for. One has a Permanent Resident Card and they want additional documentation. I completed Medicare Saving Program application as it will pay for the Part B \$104.90 and their medications will be \$2.50 to \$6.60 approximately. QMB part of this also covers hospital for the low income.

The woman at Nunnawauk from the Area on Aging went to a class on this and I will read on the paper work she received from the class. Report at the next meeting.

A sixty-eight year old man that is mentally ill but did work a full time job for twenty years. He paid union dues and a retirement. I have been submitting papers for over two years to get his retirement. We just submitted another application they sent and it states what he will receive each month. Hopefully he will start receiving it.

Ann Lobosco completed an application for a client and her daughter that had no medical coverage. Did the on line application and she was granted the next day. The state is improving. This woman had not told us until recently about her circumstance and was not on the Holiday Basket. We had some extra donations that we gave her. We told a woman who worked on the baskets about this mother and daughter and she arranged hair cuts, put together Target gift cards and movie tickets. This was the most thankful woman and daughter. It made us happy to help them. We will work on getting this woman disability. She applied awhile ago but was denied.