

**Commission on Aging  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 21, 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, March 21, 2016 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Curt Symes called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

**Present:** Curt Symes, Sheila Torres, John Boccuzzi, Margaret Imbro, Barbara Bloom, Anna Wiedemann, Mae Schmidle, Ruby Ryles, Lisa Krauss, George Guidera

**Absent:** Anne Rothstein, Claire Theune, Marilyn Place

**Also Present:** Ann Piccini and 2 members of the public

**BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Symes reminded everyone that it is referendum season and April 5<sup>th</sup> is the referendum to vote on the grant for the Community Center. Four forums and information sessions will be held over the next two weeks to answer questions and present facts to the seniors.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** LeReine Frampton, 6 Pebble Road, followed up with her letter sent last month to Linda Manganero at Nunnawauk Meadows. She would like to hold a craft group for Nunnawauk residents on the second Friday of each month. Her objective is for seniors to meet one another, socialize, and create items to be donated. If there is a lot of interest in the group she will talk to Marilyn Place about opening it up to other seniors. Mr. Symes asked LeReine to put together an updated explanation of her proposal to be discussed at next month's meeting.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

**Ms. Wiedemann made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from February 22, 2016,** seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** (Attachment A) - Mr. Symes highlighted his report. A lot of good things are happening for seniors in the community. This year's Senior NHS dinner and play ("Beauty and the Beast") was very successful. The van was available for any senior who needed transportation to the event. A dinner and play ("Fiddler on the Roof") at Newtown Middle School is being held on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:45 p.m. Several senior poets and readers have been

identified for Lisa Schwartz, our Newtown Poet Laureate. The Senior Center will be celebrating Senior Appreciation Day on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Attachment B) – Ms. Wiedemann presented her report. She stated that Marilyn Place is requesting funds from the Gift Fund for Senior Appreciation Day (\$50.00); Annual Mother's Day Tea (200.00); and the upcoming Cultural History presentations (\$330.00).

**Ms. Wiedemann made a motion to allocate a total of \$580.00 from the Gift Fund for the above mentioned activities,** seconded by Mr. Guidera and unanimously approved.

**Mr. Boccuzzi made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented,** seconded by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved.

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT:** (Attachment C) – In Ms. Place's absence, Mr. Boccuzzi reported that the pottery class is going very well. The program is a tremendous success and there is actually a waiting list. Ms. Ryles asked whether pictures have been taken of the artwork. Mr. Boccuzzi said that Nancy Crevier from The Bee did take pictures and an article has already been published.

**MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY:** (Attachment D) - Ms. Piccini reported that a total of 224 fuel applications have been completed. Newtown Police found an elderly man walking outside with no shoes and who was disoriented. A neighbor of his saw him and called the police. Protective services has been called in to access the situation. Applications for Medicare Savings, Food Stamps and health insurance are ongoing.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Update on 2016 Priorities* – Ms. Torres verified which members were working on Priorities. Ms. Torres, Mr. Boccuzzi, and Ms. Bloom are working on grant programs. Ms. Wiedemann and Ms. Rothstein are working on Senior Space. As part of Communications Ms. Schmidle, Mr. Guidera, Ms. Wiedemann, and Ms. Theune will be working on revision of By-laws. Discussion occurred about the proposed Senior Fair; Ms. Wiedemann suggested that they combine efforts with the Health Department at the Health Fair. Mr. Symes tabled the discussion given Ms. Place's absence and her role in the event.

Mr. Boccuzzi suggested that instead of a Senior Fair, discussions addressing senior issues be held at the Senior Center. Quality presenters would be terrific and could provide valuable information.

Ms. Torres stated that a Senior Advocacy Group could be formed to be "the voice of seniors". She, Mr. Boccuzzi, and Mr. Guidera would like to be involved in this effort. Mr. Boccuzzi stated that the Fairfield County Foundation will be holding a workshop to provide guidance in forming a 501c3. He feels someone from the commission should attend and learn more about the Foundation and what monies might be available. Mr. Symes feels that they would need a person to dedicate a lot of time to forming a 501c3 and to keep it going.

*Update on Grants* – Mr. Boccuzzi reported that the self-defense class grant from WCAAA has been submitted; the Cultural Arts Commission is willing to work on an art related grant he has called “Experience, Creativity”; and he is pursuing additional funding to continue the pottery program.

*Update on Communications Plan* - Ms. Ryles stated that she is ready to go forward with the COA Newsletter. She also put together a COA Brochure for the Commission’s review. Mr. Boccuzzi suggested holding a focus group where seniors could offer input as to what they would like to see in the newsletter. Ms. Torres agreed that would be a good idea. Mr. Guidera commended Ms. Ryles for the wonderful job on the materials she created.

**Ms. Schmidle made a motion to have Ms. Ryles produce a COA brochure to be reviewed by the Commission at next month’s meeting,** seconded by Mr. Guidera and unanimously approved.

*Status of Community Center Proposal & Referendum* – Mr. Symes said that a lot of confusion still exists with regard to the proposal and upcoming referendum. He thinks that it would be helpful to seniors to hold several information sessions where facts could be presented and questions could be answered. He would like to distribute the article by Linda Zukauskus in the Voices Weekender at the sessions (Attachment E). He feels that the article clearly explains the Community Center Proposal and the CCC’s vision and can help to clarify the plan.

The Vision of a New Senior Center discussion was tabled until next month. Ms. Schmidle said that a clear plan for the design of a senior center should be in place. Mr. Guidera feels that more people need to advocate for seniors and their needs.

There being no further business, **Ms. Boccuzzi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.,** seconded by Ms. Torres and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann LoBosco, Clerk

AH. A

Newtown Commission on Aging (COA) - Chairman Report - 3/21/16 Meeting

Welcome to our March COA Meeting - one of the most important meetings that the COA will conduct in 2016. To date, we have now had discussions with and helped to educate the BOS, BOF & LC regarding Senior Needs, based on COA work over the past 3 years and the Newtown Senior Survey conducted in 2013-2014.

This year's Senior (65+) NHS Dinner and Play was another culinary delight and outstanding success, drawing an excellent turnout. There are other Newtown Senior event – opportunities being planned across the year.

We have identified a number of candidate Senior Poets & Readers for Liza Schwartz, our Newtown Poet Laureate.

We will be continuing our collective work on 2016 COA Priorities and staffing out the related research teams, as well as, updating on status of Grants, and planned By-Laws work.

Regarding our activities and plans for more effective, improved and timely communication to the Seniors of Newtown, we will be continuing our discussions at this meeting and across the year. This will be very important in re-enforcing the “need” for a New Senior Center.

The Community Center Commission (CCC) has now completed its work and the final recommendations have been presentation to and approved by the BOS, BOF & LC with a town referendum set for April 5th.

Finally, I am attaching a copy of the Village Voices article, dated March 5-6, that does an excellent job of discussing the Community Center Proposal and opportunity to extend the CC with a New Senior Center. In the next weeks we will be conducting Seniors, Boomers & Interested Family Members Forums & Information Sessions, helping Seniors understand what is coming forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Symes

Chair, Newtown COA

**Newtown Seniors, Boomers & Family  
Members - Forum & Information Exchange**

**Sponsored by the Commission on Aging (COA)**

**Discussion Topic:**

**Status of the Newtown Community Center  
Commission Proposal & Upcoming Referendum**

**Locations:**

**March 30 - Nunnawauk Meadows - 11:00am-12:00n**

**March 30 - Senior Center - 1:00pm-2:00pm**

**March 31 - Booth Library - 7:00pm-8:00pm**

**April 2 - NYA Sports & Fitness - 11am-12n**

**For additional information please email:**

**[NewtownCOA@aol.com](mailto:NewtownCOA@aol.com)**

Att. B

SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	CUR	COB	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	NEW SENIOR CENTER	GRANT	BALANCE
7/1/15	Beginning Balance						43,169.00
7/6/2015	DONATION- TAUNTON PRESS- T-3319		150.00				43,319.00
7/9/2015	DONATION- NEWTOWN LIONS CLUB- T-3320		1,000.00				44,319.00
7/20/2015	TRUST DISTRIBUTION- T-3727			598.40			44,917.40
7/30/2015	Ck #19567- Holiday Inn(3 STAFF/REQUESTS)	(310.00)					44,607.40
7/30/2015	Ck #19532- Alan Davalere(White House Speaker)	(160.00)					44,507.40
8/12/2015	S.C. TEE SHIRT- T-3080		10.00				44,517.40
9/17/2015	Ck #20233 Arthur Colleso- History Pres- Sept/Oct/Nov	(330.00)					44,187.40
10/23/2015	TRUST DISTRIBUTION- T-23507			508.40			44,785.80
10/29/2015	Ck #20028- CS Consulting & Services	(125.00)					44,660.80
10/29/2015	Ck #20075- Image One	(485.80)					44,105.20
11/12/2015	Ck #21130- Rafael Spammato- Music Therapy	(150.00)					44,015.20
11/12/2015	Ck #21002- Michaels At the Grove- Deposit for Xmas party	(200.00)	2,483.75				43,615.20
11/16/2015	Annual Holiday Bazaar- T28700		50.00				48,278.95
11/30/2015	Bazaar Monies T30059						48,328.95
12/3/2015	Ck #21428- Michael's At The Grove- Holiday Party	(725.00)					45,603.95
12/3/2015	Ck #21428- Sean McKee- DJ for Holiday Party	(250.00)					45,353.95
12/8/2015	Bazaar monies T-37152		20.00				45,373.95
12/10/2015	Ck #21526- Rafael Spammato- Music for Dec 10	(150.00)					45,223.95
12/16/2015	Holiday Bazaar Raffle- T-34361		310.00				45,533.95
12/17/2015	TRUST DISTRIBUTION- T-37791	(2635.60)		537.50			43,255.81
		(2635.60)	4,003.75	1,754.20			49,091.41
	GRANT-WCAAA						
7/20/2015	ck #19744-Claudia Landwehr					(200.00)	
7/29/2015	ck #19721-Susan Bradley					(200.00)	
7/29/2015	ck #19722-Eileen Bynnes					(200.00)	
8/6/2015	ck#19838-Susan Bradley					(160.00)	
8/6/2015	ck#19840-Eileen Bynnes					(160.00)	
8/6/2015	ck#19875-Claudia Landwehr					(160.00)	
9/7/2015	Grant Received					1,080.00	
9/10/2015	Ck# 20165- Eileen Bynnes					(160.00)	
9/17/2015	Ck #20280- Claudia Landwehr					(160.00)	
9/17/2015	Ck #20193- Susan Bradley					(160.00)	
9/17/2015	Grant Received					480.00	
10/15/2015	Ck #20802- Susan Bradley					(160.00)	
10/15/2015	Ck #20808- Eileen Bynnes					(120.00)	
10/15/2015	Ck #20837- Claudia Landwehr					(200.00)	
11/22/2015	Grant Received					480.00	
11/23/2015	Ck #20901- Susan Bradley					(120.00)	
11/23/2015	Ck #20893- Eileen Bynnes					(120.00)	
11/23/2015	Ck #21076- Claudia Landwehr					(160.00)	
12/10/2015	Ck #21454- Eileen Bynnes					(160.00)	
12/10/2015	Ck #21500- Claudia Landwehr					(160.00)	
12/10/2015	Ck #21452- Susan Bradley					(120.00)	
12/22/2015	Ck #21670- Eileen Bynnes					(120.00)	
12/22/2015	Ck #21690- Susan Bradley					(200.00)	
12/22/2015	Ck #22007- Claudia Landwehr					(200.00)	
2/5/2016	Ck #22197- Eileen Bynnes					(120.00)	
2/5/2016	Ck #22194- Susan Bradley					(160.00)	
2/5/2016	Ck #22254- Claudia Landwehr					(160.00)	
						(1,800.00)	

12/30/2015 GRANT- REG-POTTERY CLASS 4,954.00  
 2/18/2016 GRANT- T-34782 (148.55)  
 2/18/2016 Ck #22326- Lynn Welsh (27.90)  
 2/18/2016 Ck #22192- John Bocuzzi  
 4,776.55

SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/R	C/D	FRANK KNIGHTS TRUST FUND	NEW SENIOR CENTER	GRANT	BALANCE
7/1/15	Beginning Balance						43,169.00
7/6/2015	DONATION- TAUNTON PRESS- T-3319		150.00				43,319.00
7/6/2015	DONATION- NEWTOWN LIONS CLUB- T-3320		1,000.00				44,319.00
7/20/2015	TRUST DISTRIBUTION- T-5727			596.40			44,917.40
7/30/2015	Ck #19567- Holiday Inn3 STAFF/GUESTS)	(370.00)					44,607.40
7/30/2015	Ck #19532- Alan Doralens(White House Speaker)	(100.00)					44,507.40
8/12/2015	S. C. TEE SHIRT- T-3068		10.00				44,517.40
9/17/2015	Ck #20233 Arthur Gottlieb- Halsey Pres- Sept/Oct/Nov	(330.00)					44,187.40
10/23/2015	TRUST DISTRIBUTION- T-23687	(125.00)		596.40			44,765.80
10/29/2015	Ck #20826- CS Consulting & Services	(495.00)					44,660.80
10/29/2015	Ck #20875- Image One						44,165.20
11/12/2015	Ck #21130- Rafael Spennato- Music Therapy	(150.00)					44,015.20
11/12/2015	Ck #21092- Michael's At the Grove- Deposit for Xmas party	(200.00)					43,815.20
11/19/2015	Annual Holiday Bazaar- T28703	2,463.75					46,278.95
11/30/2015	Bazaar Monies T36550	50.00					46,328.95
12/3/2015	Ck #21428- Michael's At The Grove- Holiday Party	(725.00)					45,603.95
12/3/2015	Ck #21428- Sven McKee- DJ for Holiday Party	(250.00)					45,353.95
12/9/2015	Bazaar monies T-32152	20.00					45,373.95
12/10/2015	Ck #21526- Rafael Spennato- Music for Dec 10	(150.00)					45,223.95
12/18/2015	Holiday Bazaar Raffle- T-34351	310.00					45,533.95
1/21/2016	TRUST DISTRIBUTION- T-37791	(2835.60)		557.46			43,255.81
		(2835.60)	4,003.75	1,754.26			46,091.41
						(200.00)	
						(200.00)	
						(200.00)	
						(160.00)	
						(160.00)	
						1,080.00	
						(160.00)	
						(160.00)	
						(160.00)	
						480.00	
						(160.00)	
						(200.00)	
						480.00	
						(120.00)	
						(120.00)	
						(160.00)	
						(160.00)	
						(120.00)	
						(120.00)	
						(200.00)	
						(200.00)	

NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER  
 Director of Senior Services  
 February 20, 2016 – March 18, 2016

*A.H. C*

PROGRAMS                                      NUMBER OF ATTENDANTS ( Feb. )

Zumba Gold	10
Exercise	126
Floor Yoga (2 days)	61
Chair Yoga (2 day)	54
Cards	42
Mah Jong	8
Chorus	9
Bingo/Keno	17
Lunch	118
Hot Dog Luncheon	30
Knitting	20
Cards (craft)	7
Quilting/sewing	17
Walk-Ins	19
Billiards/ping pong	15
Trips	17
Newsletter	6
Wii	24

Painting/Art	8
Special events	21
Tai Chi	28
AARP Safe Driving	
Ballroom Line dance	27
Current Events Discussion	38
Spanish Lessons	40
Speakers	21
Chair Pilates	29
Strength & Balance	33
Inter-generational w/ CAC	46
Bible study	12

Blood Pressure                                      22

Attendance Daily:

Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs	Friday
184	177	174	189	183

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

917

### **COMPLETED EVENTS:**

- AARP Income Tax assistance Feb 8 – April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- New reading program w/ CAC Feb 25
- Cultural Speaker on Harry S. Truman March 10
- Lunch and Laughter Mad Libs March 11
- Singer/Entertainer Alan Feldman sponsored by HomeInstead Senior Care March 16
- St Patty's Day celebration and Bingo March 17
- Annual Fish Luncheon March 20
- AARP Safety Driver Program March 20

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- AARP Income Tax assistance Feb 8 – April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Lunch and Lecture on Foot Care w/ Dr Huynh March 22
- Craft of the Month w/ Mary & Dottie March 24
- Dance Teams from The Lathrop School of Dance April 7
- Fostering Senior Dogs Lunch and Learn ( Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation) April 8
- "Walking on Eggshells" The Journey of a Caregiver, interactive discussion April 20
- Annual Mother's Day Tea May 6

### **TRIPS:**

- Florida March 6-17 (sold out)
- An American in Paris on Broadway April 6 (sold out)
- 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
- Mohegan Sun May 9
- Warner Theatre "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" May 15 (Sunday)

### **New programs:**

1. Pottery Class starts March 9 continues for 24 classes every other Wed. 1-4
2. Inter-generational craft program w/ CAC ongoing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday
3. Bible Study Wednesdays @ 2:30
4. Mornings with Marilyn ongoing every morning
5. Keno sponsored by Golden Opportunities every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday @ 2:00
6. Inter-generational "Tips and Tricks on everyday technology" ongoing every Friday @ 2:30
7. Reading program w/ CAC every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @ 10:00
8. Ongoing Hot Dog luncheon once a month
9. Craft of the Month (alternates w/ different senior volunteers) 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month

### **More Upcoming Events for Seniors:**

The New Pottery Class began Wednesday March 9 1-4. 17 participated. ALL enjoyed it. Continues every other Wednesday. We have to iron out a few things as we go along. Most important is that each participant has a good experience and maybe continues w/ pottery in the future. They understand the importance of having an "art room" in the future where there is a kiln and pottery wheels and a "slop" sink. All in all these rooms at the Center are well used!

### **Lunch and Learns will continue with some great info seminars:**

1. Comprehensive Foot Care Tues March 22 @ 12 w/ Dr. Hang Huynh
2. Mad Lib Learn and Laugh Luncheon w/ Masonicare March 11 12:00
3. Fostering Senior Dogs, The Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation April 8 12:00
4. Journey of a Caregiver April 20 11:30

**Cultural History Series:**

Continues w/ Arthur Gottlieb LSCW

April 14 Eisenhower Interstate System

May 12 Chrysler Building

1. **Senior Appreciation Day** is Saturday April 16, we will celebrate on Friday April 15.

2. Annual Mother's Day Tea is Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> besides tea and bingo we will be having a "surprise" fashion show.

3. "Senior Prom" @ Nunnawauk Meadows, sponsored by Newtown Senior Center, Nunnawauk Meadows, & Parks and Rec , May 20 4-8pm more info to follow

**UPDATE:**

Due to parking the "Prom" will now be at the HS cafeteria. Not at Nunnawauk Meadows.

Nunnawauk Meadows has backed out. Will promote it w/ residents.

Linda and I will be planning another Gathering "Social" at Nunnawauk in June.

Simpson & Vail donated special Teas for our Annual Mother's Day Tea.

**Senior Services Gift Fund:**

Please note I am requesting the gift fund pay for the refreshments at the Annual Tea, like in previous years. The amount is yet not known till purchased.

Also, The History presentations are very popular. The seniors have picked out the recent topics. And request to continue for the year. Which needs to be scheduled now. I will be requesting the gift fund pay for the next 3 presentations. His fee is \$110 per each presentation. Total \$330

**TRIAD:**

Friday April 15 we will be celebrating Senior Appreciation Day w/ hot dogs, etc. and cake

Officer MH McCarthy and I will be presenting handouts/booklets on the recent frauds/scams also the new Chief of Police will be introduced to the seniors.

I am requesting the gift fund pay for the luncheon/refreshments. The amount is not known till purchased.

**Total:** Monies to be spent from gift fund for Senior Appreciation Day....providing receipts.

Monies to be spent from gift fund for Annual Tea refreshments... providing receipts.

\$330 for upcoming Cultural History presentations.

Again, this year those who participated (55 seniors) in the dinner/play on Wed March 16 at the HS had the most wonderful time. Hats off to the students and all involved. Our seniors LOVED it !!!!

Annual St Patty's Luncheon and Bingo (32) and my Annual Fish Luncheon (38) was a huge success.

Keeping the seniors busy and active.

**Marilyn**



A.H. D



Ann LoBosco &lt;ann.lobosco@newtown-ct.gov&gt;

**Fwd: Commission on Aging Meeting March 21, 2016**

1 message

CurtSymes@aol.com &lt;CurtSymes@aol.com&gt;

Mon, Mar 21, 2016 at 2:59 PM

To: ann.lobosco@newtown-ct.gov

From: ann.piccini@newtown-ct.gov  
To: CurtSymes@aol.com  
Sent: 3/21/2016 12:58:58 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
Subj: Commission on Aging Meeting March 21, 2016

We completed State Fuel applications totaling Two Hundred Twenty Four. One Hundred Nine were for seniors and thirty seven were for disabled. We called Fifty-five of our deliverable fuel applicants reminding them that their last delivery had to be requested by March 15th. We made the request for twenty two of them. Many of our elderly and disabled do not remember the cut off date and with their low income I find that this process is working to keep them financially afloat.

We are distributing about 80 Easter Baskets which is a fun part of the job.

Newtown Police Department found an elderly man walking with no shoes or coat. A neighbor seen him and called. Their son who is a doctor has Power of Attorney but apparently not checking on how they are doing. Protective services want to make a home visit before they call the son. He will need to get someone to live in the home.

We have completed thirty-two Medicare Savings Applications, eleven food stamp applications and Navigated eight Health Care Insurance applications.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Piccini

AH. E

## **Newtown Community Center: Board Approves Center Resolution**

Posted: Saturday, March 5, 2016 6:00 am

([www.voicesnews.com](http://www.voicesnews.com) & Voices Weekender – March 6, 2016 by Linda Zukauskas)

NEWTOWN — The Board of Selectmen, meeting Monday, February 29, approved a resolution for the appropriation of \$14.5 million for the planning, design and construction of a community center to include, but not be limited to, 13,000 square feet of flexible, programmable space and a aquatics component consisting of a zero entry pool and a 50-meter pool.

First Selectman Pat Llodra pointed out that the word “approximate” was written into the resolution to indicate that the town would create a center of at least 13,000 square feet and that the number might be larger, as would be desirable, when the actual work began.

Community Center Commission Co-Chair Andy Clure thanked members of the commission for their service before Co-Chair Brian Hartgraves described the vision that they created.

Mr. Hartgraves said there was a survey process to gather feedback from residents on their preferences for a center and a subcommittee that reached out to local organizations.

As the board listened to the presentation, Ms. Llodra asked Mr. Hartgraves to clarify that the space was not defined by the pools and he concurred, pointing out that most of the center is available for programming.

“Ultimately, what you do need is flexible space,” he added, speaking of movable walls and of creating a hub where people could congregate and visit with neighbors. “That’s the kind of thing we’d like to see.”

The proposal includes a recommendation for dedicated space to feature legacy groups, the organizations that are related to the Sandy Hook tragedy and their missions. The Resiliency and Recovery team had commented before the meeting that healing happens when people are together.

The Community Center Commission provided estimates for construction and management of the facility.

The commissioners wanted to create a vision for the center that would not become a burden on the tax payers. Mr. Hartgraves pointed out, “The main sources of revenue are memberships.”

Another source would be programming and the commission recommends the center be run by a dedicated, experienced director who can help create and run a successful program structure.

Ms. Llodra applauded the commission for creating a proposal that considers the tax payer and its intuitive in doing so; the Board of Selectmen had not made that factor a part of the commission’s charge.

She asked for rationale behind the commission’s choices and Mr. Hartgraves responded that a 50-meter pool allows for flexibility and long course swimming events.

Mr. Clure pointed out there are smaller pools in town and the grant from General Electric specifies the creation of something that does not already exist.

The commission recommends a feasibility study for an ice rink because of the public feedback, which Mr. Hartgraves said was invaluable to the commission as it completed its charge.

After the presentation, the first selectman said the footprint of the building should be a design that would allow for connections to a senior center or the Newtown Youth Academy, although she pointed out that the NYA operating budget was more than the town could absorb at this time.

Before casting their votes, the board debated Selectman Herb Rosenthal’s suggestion of making an effort to include a senior center with this project.

Ms. Llodra pointed out that the Legislative Council was very clear when it recently made its decisions regarding spending in the Capital Improvement Plan and cutting the town’s line item for a community center.

She believes that the best hope for a senior center would be to move forward with the proposal from the Community Center Commission. “We can do it all but we cannot do it all at once.”

Mr. Rosenthal said he supports the project but disagrees with the method and voted against the appropriation.

During public participation, Curt Symes, chair of the Commission on Aging, said, “The seniors are emphatically behind a community center.”

He expressed his concerns that the town has not addressed the residents’ need for a senior center, citing safety concerns with the facility at Riverside Road. He suggested a plan to create a new senior center as an addition to the new community center.

According to Mr. Symes, the seniors will need a smaller dedicated space given access to the shared space in the community center.

John Bocuzzi, Sr., a member of the Community Center Commission and Commission on Aging, agreed to the necessity for a plan going forward but qualified Mr. Symes’ comments by noting the aging commission had not discussed or voted on the community center proposal.

Cris Carvalho, Sunset Hill Road, said the proposed center does not fit the needs of everyone in the community, referring to seniors, teens, and those with mental health or addiction issues.

Robert Hall, Nettleton Avenue, expressed his support for a 50-meter pool.

**Note:** In subsequent meetings both the Board of Finance and Legislative Council Approved the Resolution, and the BOS has now set a date for a Town Referendum on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**(Update by Curt Symes, Chair of the COA – March 6, 2016)**

3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470  
Tel (203) 426-3288  
Fax (203) 426-3288  
www.newtown-ct.gov



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### COMMISSION ON AGING

#### AGENDA

Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 21, 2016  
14 Riverside Road  
5:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Brief Announcements

Public Participation (3 minutes per participant)

Minutes of February 22, 2015 Meeting

Chairman Report - Symes (5 min.)

Treasurer Report - Wiedemann (5 min.)

Director of Senior Services Report - Place (5 min.)

Municipal Agent for the Elderly Report - Piccini (5 min.)

#### Old Business

Update on 2016 Priorities - Torres (5 min.)

Update on Grants Work - Boccuzzi, Bloom (5 min.)

Discussion on Newtown Senior Communications Plan(s) - Ryles (5 min.)

Status of Community Center Proposal & Referendum - Commission (5 min.)

Vision of a New Senior Center & Expanded Programs - Symes (5 min.)

#### New Business

Planning for the four (4) Seniors, Boomers & Interested Family Members

- Forums & Information Exchanges

#### Adjournment

Curt Symes, Chairman

(If you cannot attend, please notify me 24 hrs. in advance.)

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.