

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a Public Hearing and a regular meeting Monday, June 1, 2020. The meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19 mandates and precautions. First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m.

PRESENT: First Selectman Daniel C. Rosenthal, Selectman Maureen Crick Owen and Selectman Jeff Capeci

ALSO PRESENT: Land Use Agency Secretary Christine O'Neill and Deputy Director for Economic and Community Development Christal Preszler.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PUBLIC HEARING & VOTE: Christine O'Neill explained the program is created by the state but the approval process is administered through the municipalities. The mission is to offer tax credits to businesses who make contributions to nonprofit programs that benefit the community. The DRS (Dept. of Revenue Services) provide the tax credit; there is no monetary contribution from the Town of Newtown. The approval is based on whether or not the scope and concept of the program serve to assist the neighborhood (Newtown). There is no limit to the number of applications accepted. All applications submitted were vetted and submitted. Any nonprofit registered with the IRS, within the Town of Newtown received a mailing about this program and the Bee did an article on it as well. Ms. O'Neill provided an overview on all of the applicants (att.). Selectman Crick Owen moved that, consistent with the requirements of the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program, the scope and the concept of the following programs shall be approved by the Town of Newtown: Abbott's Hill Farm "Human Educational Outreach", Children's Adventure Center "DSS Funding Families", Find Us Outside "Forest School" and "Nature Detectives", FISH of Newtown "Medical Transportation", Friends of Newtown Seniors "Chore Services" and "Transportation Project", Newtown Youth Lacrosse Association "NYLA", Newtown Youth and Family Services "Youth Programming", Stray Kats Theater Company "Still Crazy After All These Years Festival" and The Exceptional Sidekick "Service Dog Training". Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Selectman Crick Owen moved to accept the regular meeting minutes of 5/18/20 and the special meeting minutes of 5/26/20. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

ADD TO AGENDA: Selectman Crick Owen moved to add, for discussion and possible action, the referral of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial project to the Public Building & Site Commission. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Crick Owen moved to refer the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial project to the Public Building & Site Commission for project review and management. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS: The RFQ's for the memorial will be coming in. Future invoices will be vetted through the Public Building & Site Commission. Beginning May 26th the municipal offices were back to working full staff. Logistics are still being considering relative to re-opening the building to the public, which will likely be done mid-June. The public will be served remotely to the extent possible. Protests in CT, while disruptive, have been peaceful with no looting. First Selectman Rosenthal believes this speaks to the relationships between CT police and citizens. He praised Chief Viadero for his comments and in letting the public know that our department has taken proactive measures to address diversity and sensitivity training. Chief Viadero is raising the overall awareness with the entire community. Selectman Crick Owen noted that Chief Viadero spoke to the Chamber of Commerce and stated he spends time, including weekends, talking with all of the officers. Newtown may be called on for mutual aid in

Rec'd. for Record 6-2-2020
Town Clerk of Newtown 2:00pm
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

Board of Selectmen
June 1, 2020

surrounding cities, if necessary.

FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT: none.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

1. Appointments/Reappointments/Vacancies/Openings: Selectman Crick Owen moved the appointment of Assistant Animal Control Officers Michele Deluca and Emily Whittaker, for terms to expire April 17, 2021. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor. Selectman Crick Owen moved the following re-appointments: Fred Hurley (alternate) and Herb Rosenthal to HRRA for a terms to expire July 1, 2023; Carolee Mason, Animal Control Officer and Helen Wigzell and Suada Likovic as Assistant Animal Control Officers, all with terms to expire April 17, 2021. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

2. Driveway Bond Release/Extension: Selectman Crick Owen moved the driveway bond release of \$1,000 to Corbo Assoc. Inc. for Oak Ridge Drive, M12, B2, L106-7. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor. Selectman Crick Owen moved the driveway bond release of \$1,000 to Corbo Assoc. for Hundred Acres Rd., M31, B1, L2, L1. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor. Selectman Crick Owen moved the driveway bond release of \$1,000 to RMC Classic Realty, LLC for 24 Meridian Ridge, M2, B0, L1.15. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

3. Tax Refunds: Selectman Crick Owen moved to approve the June 1, 2020 Tax Refund #18, 2019/20 in the amount of \$1,203.68. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Police Union contract will be on the next meeting agenda. Parks & Recreation negotiations have just begun. The Board of Selectmen will tour the police station on June 4 at 3:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the regular Board of Selectmen meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Att: Neighborhood Assistance Act memo and overview

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Marcinek, Clerk



**TOWN OF NEWTOWN
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

From: Christine O'Neill, NAA Municipal Liaison

To: Town of Newtown Board of Selectmen

CC: George Benson, Director of Planning; Christal Preszler, Deputy Director of Economic & Community Development; Kimberly Chiappetta, Economic & Community Development Coordinator

Date: May 18, 2020

Re: Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act 2020

Board of Selectmen:

The Economic and Community Development Department is excited to implement the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) in Newtown for the first time this year. This program, created by the State and administered through participating municipalities, is designed to help businesses and nonprofits.

The NAA's mission is to offer tax credits to businesses who make contributions to nonprofit programs that benefit the community. Tax credits will be provided by the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS), and will require no monetary contribution from Newtown.

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) plays an important role in this process: approving the concept and scope of the nonprofit programs. With First Selectman Rosenthal's blessing, our department sent out letters to all the 501(c)3s in Newtown. We have received 11 applications, which are attached here.

At the June 1st BOS meeting, I will be making a presentation (virtually or in person with social distance) on behalf of the applicants, as the NAA requires a public hearings for approval of the applications. There are a few important things to understand about the process, which I will reiterate in my presentation:

- The BOS's approval is based on one question: Do the scope and concept of the program serve to "assist the neighborhood" (Newtown)?
- There is no limit to the number of applications that may be approved.
- The DRS will review the financial portion of the applications after your approval.
- The Town of Newtown does not need to contribute any money. Your approval simply confirms to the State that these programs will indeed benefit the community.

The NAA is a complex program, and I will do my best to field any questions during my presentation. Of course you are welcome to contact me beforehand with questions at 203-270-4276, although application-specific inquiries should wait until the public hearing.

The Economic and Community Development Department greatly appreciates your time and cooperation in supporting Newtown nonprofits and businesses through the NAA. I look forward to discussing the applications attached herein at the June 1st meeting.

All my best,
Christine O'Neill

Abbott's Hill Farm's program is called "Humane Educational Outreach." This farm rescues animals in need and teaches people about compassion and animal welfare, with activities such as animal therapy and reading to the animals. The project focuses on expanding habitats and infrastructure, specifically fencing and housing.

Children's Adventure Center's program is called "DSS Funding Families." The CAC is a well-established childcare center in Newtown. This project would allow them to provide financial aid to an additional 30 financially disadvantaged families who are not currently receiving help. CAC will follow State guidelines and gather proof of financial status to ensure that the donations they receive go to those in need.

Find Us Outside's first program is called "Forest School." Find Us Outside is a wonderful nonprofit that offers outdoor and nature-based childcare services. This program incorporates play and meaningful outdoor experiences into educational and developmental support for children. Find Us Outside plans to partner with the Newtown school system, Parks & Rec, and the Office of the First Selectman to make scholarships available to the Newtown community.

Find Us Outside's second program is called "Nature Detectives," which will explore the local ecosystem of the Brunot Preserve. Brunot Preserve can be accessed off Taunton Hill Road and is overseen by the Newtown Forest Association. Children will learn concepts including "the wood wide web," plant identification, and nature and art games.

FISH of Newtown's program is called "Medical Transportation." FISH has been involved in the Newtown community for 50 wonderful years and currently serves about 140 residents. FISH volunteers drive Newtown residents to medical appointments in surrounding towns for free. This project seeks donations for FISH's very few expenses: their answering service, filing fee, and mailings.

Friends of Newtown Seniors's first program is called "Chore Services." I'm sure you are well-acquainted with the incredible work that FONS has done in our community. "Chore Services" will allow our residents to age in place by assisting with grocery shopping, delivery, chores, and minor repairs for those in need who are 55+.

Friends of Newtown Seniors's second program is called "Transportation Project." This project would provide a specially-equipped taxi service for seniors who may be wheelchair-bound or handicapped. Surveys have shown that a need for reasonable transportation is a high priority for seniors, which is Newtown's fastest-growing demographic.

Newtown Youth Lacrosse Association's program is called "NYLA." Youth sports play such an important role in our community. This Lacrosse league promotes sportsmanship, respect, teamwork, and healthy competition.

Newtown Youth and Family Services's bundle of programs is called "Youth Programming," and covers a wide breadth of services. "Safety Town" is an interactive safety education program for kindergarteners to teach them about strangers, traffic, fire, water, etc. "REC Club" or "Reaching Everyone's Capabilities" is a social club geared towards children and teens with social challenges, encouraging confidence and peer-to-peer growth. "Sibshop" is a recreation-based support group for siblings of children with developmental disabilities. "Homework Club" provides afterschool educational support for students. And finally, "FUSION" is a mentoring program in partnership with Newtown High School to make the transition into high school fun and easy. Newtown Youth and Family Services is looking for donations to fund this bundle of excellent programs for the young people in our community.

Stray Kats Theatre Company's program is called the "Still Crazy After All These Years Festival." This short-play festival celebrates the amazing lives of today's seniors. Pending coronavirus restrictions being lifted, director Kate Katcher is hoping to coordinate this Festival with the Newtown Arts Festival. Stray Kats is a local theater group that promotes good communication skills and cultural enhancement.

Our final application comes from The Exceptional Sidekick and their program is called "Service Dog Training." The Exception Sidekick provides psychiatric service dogs for Newtown residents ages 12-22 for free! Temperament-tested puppies will be put through training by experts, in order to serve youth dealing with PTSD, autoimmune diseases, and other disabilities. They have placed service dogs with survivors of 9/11 and other disabled young adults in hopes of mitigating symptoms and breaking the stigma of mental illness.

