

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING**

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, June 18, 2018 in the Council Chamber of the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

**Call to order:** Ms. Wiedemann called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

**PRESENT:** Anna Wiedemann, Barbara Bloom, LeReine Frampton, George Guidera, Anne Rothstein, Larry Passaro, Ruby Ryles, Curt Symes, Claire Theune, Maureen Will

**ABSENT:** John Boccuzzi, Mae Schmidle

**ALSO PRESENT:** Marilyn Place, Officer Maryhelen McCarthy, six members of the public and one member of the press.

**VOTER COMMENTS:** *Karin Aurelia, Nunnawauk Meadows*, expressed dissatisfaction with the current Commission on Aging, saying there is bullyism. She feels money is being wasted; there will be a new facility that needs to be furnished.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Symes moved to accept the meeting minutes of May 21, 2018. Motion seconded by Ms. Frampton. All in favor.

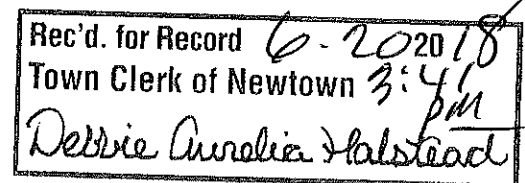
**REPORTS:**

**CHAIR REPORT:** Ms. Wiedemann distributed the monthly report (attached). Mr. Symes stated he has only heard good things about the mural. Ms. Wiedemann said it was very well attended.

**VICE CHAIR REPORT:** Mr. Guidera reviewed the meeting of the programming subcommittee (attached) saying that the next meeting is July 13. Ideas are welcome, the group will discuss programming ideas over the summer and into the fall so that they can hit the bricks running in the new senior center. There will be visits to other area senior centers in July; he urges everyone to join in the visits.

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES:** Ms. Place reported the My Senior Center fobs are set to go on July 1. Mr. Passaro thinks it's important, when figuring programming, to know the attendance at each program offered. Ms. Place can provide that information. There will be a new program that will be able to generate reports on different aspects of the center, including numbers relative to programming. Safety and emergency information can be input into the new program also.

**DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES:** (Report attached).



There was an article on Elder abuse in the Newtown Bee and Ms. Rothstein thanked Officer McCarthy for outstanding work.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** (Report attached) Ms. Rothstein expressed appreciation to the Lions for donating \$1,000 for new furniture for the Senior Center. When Mr. Symes questioned the threshold on the gift fund Ms. Rothstein said she gets data for the gift fund from the Finance Director. Ms. Will suggested Ms. Rothstein sit with Mr. Tait relative to rules and regulations of the gift fund.

Mr. Guidera said the center will be much larger with more programming and a larger cost of operation. The commission needs to consider an expanded budget. Ms. Will noted that is the job of the department head, not the commission. There will be an increase in staff and an increase in line item. The department head brings the budget to the First Selectman and the Finance Director. There is time to prepare for that.

**GRANTS COMMITTEE:** Ms. Bloom said there will be a decision next month on the bus shelter grant. A \$4,000 REGI grant application has been submitted; it will be sponsored by the Commission on Aging but in the name of the Town of Newtown. Mr. Symes said one of the eight domains of the livable community initiative is transportation; ideally there will be support in seeking transportation grants.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**BORROW MY GLASSES:** The commission discussed a date to reschedule the event. Ms. Place said the event could be held at the center or at the cafetorium. The presenter is very flexible. Ms. Wiedemann and Ms. Place will work together to reschedule a Saturday date.

**SENIOR RESOURCE GUIDE:** Ms. Rothstein is in the process of trying all the links; it's easy to update. Ms. Rothstein will take activities gathered from other centers, put them in a spreadsheet with an explanation of activity and offered to share with the commission. Ms. Theune said there is also an Age Well Connecticut website; the community can access programming at area centers.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**LIVABLE COMMUNITY:** A meeting was held with eighty members of the community, seven members of the commission on aging and eight table leaders. The table leaders have had additional meetings and are getting ready to set up goals. There will be a report from the table leaders. Ms. Bloom suggested the Commission on Aging have liaisons take part in the ongoing meetings. Mr. Guidera said he is willing to help and said there has been no feedback from Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS). Ms. Bloom said they are due to report to the Commission on Aging and the Board of Selectman. Mr. Symes said there needs to be better communication between FONS and COA. Ms. Frampton said the commission needs to remain neutral and does not think FONS should be a subcommittee of the commission. Ms. Wiedemann said that FONS can submit a report like the directors of senior services and social services do. Ms. Bloom said FONS was put in charge of organizing the Livable Community initiative but it is a town

initiative. Many table leaders are not members of Friends of Newtown Seniors. Mr. Symes said whatever FONS can do to generate money for the new senior center is a win/win. Ms. Bloom spoke about At Home in Darien, a senior advocacy group, and what they do for seniors. Ms. Will thinks the commission needs to look at our resources now and how to expand; a year is needed, in the new building, to understand staffing requirements to fulfill the wishes of seniors.

Ms. Wiedemann and Ms. Place met with LPI and Ms. Place has the name of another contact to reach out to relative to newsletters. Attached is an article about \$2 million being cut from the senior meals programs. Ms. Wiedemann recommends people write to the governor to voice concern over this decision.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATOIN:** *Officer McCarthy* said that transportation may serve only eight people a day because the town is so large. *Ned Simpson, 42 Watkins Drive* asked if the senior resource guide could be put on the website. *Gary MacRae, 89 Boggs Hill* asked if the daily attendance at the center counts one person twice if they come in the morning and come back in the afternoon. Also, at social gatherings, Mr. MacRae has asked questions of seniors and nobody knows what's going on at the senior center. Programs needed to be added. *Dorothy Bartlett* said it's a question of demographics; 60 is not a senior in today's age. No one place will meet the needs of everyone. It has to be working together, understanding there are different needs.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business a motion was made by Mr. Guidera to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:05pm. Motion was seconded by Ms. Frampton. All in favor.

*Attachments: Chair report; Program sub-committee minutes, May 18, 2018; Director of Senior Services report; Director of Social Services report, June 2018; Gift Fund; article re: \$2 million cut to senior meals program*

Respectfully submitted

*Susan Marcinek, clerk pro-tem*

## June 18, 2018 COA Chair Report

We had a wonderful time working on the Art Mural at the Edmond Town Hall. There was plenty of help, great fellowship and a wonderful mural to be proud of! Our first contribution to the new Senior Center! Thank you to John and Barbara for the grant, to Maureen Will for facilitating the meetings and vote and the ETH for the use of the gym and Ann LoBosco for organizing a great wrap up party afterwards! Truly a team effort.

I met with Matt Ariniello this week. He is the new Director for the Community Center. He wanted to discuss programming and had some preliminary thoughts. He discussed having access to the pools; wellness classes, yoga, tai chi, meditation – hopefully free (always a great price!). He talked about Free Membership events. Lots to look forward to.

Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Gary Macrae and myself met with Susan Gotissta from LPI publishing company. We wanted to discuss pros and cons. I have typed up a sheet that I'll bring Monday with some notes. We will create a sub-committee on Monday. Please give some thought to serving on that committee. There's also another company that Marilyn mentioned. I'm hoping Marilyn will bring that information on Monday so the committee can do comparisons. I have already asked Gary to be on the committee as an Advisory Member. Marilyn recently mentioned moving our newsletter to a monthly one instead of a bi-monthly one.

There were two events this past week that were held in conjunction with the Community Center Advisory. Thank you to Larry and George for attending. Both were well attended. There was information regarding the progress thus far.

Keep an eye out for the newsletter to see what events will be taking place for the month of July and August.

Happy Father's Day to all. Enjoy your weekend, Anna

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
PROGRAM SUB-COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF May 18, 2018**

Attendance: Marilyn Place, George Guidera, Anne Rothstein, Barbara Bloom, Anna Wiedemann

Public: Selectman Rosenthal, Mary Maday and Gary Macrae

Meeting was called to order at 2:04pm

Minutes of April 16, 2018. Date on minutes need to be corrected. They read March 16, should read April 16. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

- continued around Programming. Ms. Place is going to put a survey/questionnaire into the upcoming newsletter. Commissioners are asked to submit ideas regarding what they'd like to see, ideas for programming that would draw more males to the center, what are our hobbies, interests, etc.
- upcoming programming. Will reach out to the Commissioners, schools and community for possible instructors.
- new staffing needs as we move to the new Center.
- think outside the box. For example, opening the Senior Center for evenings or weekends to watch sports together (more socialization).
- Ms. Bloom suggested looking at the calendar to schedule some programs, where possible, in the Center since we seem to not always have a full house.

Next Steps: George Guidera will have information regarding Weston's Dial A Ride program. He will also speak to the driver for Dial A Ride.

Anna will invite the new Director of Nunnawauk Meadows (via NM board member Ms. Frampton) and the current director of Shelton.

Gary Macrae, who attended the Liveable Community Forum, read an article from a Senior Center in Plymouth MA. He will reach out to them and report back to the sub-committee, on how they successfully have more male attendance.

Marilyn Place will provide more detail for the program suggestions she presented.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Bloom and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Wiedemann.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20.

Next meeting is June 15, 2018, 2pm in the Municipal Center. Please check agenda to make sure of the room at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, George Guidera, Chair Programming Sub Committee

NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER  
Director of Senior Services  
May 18, 2018 – June 15, 2018

PROGRAMS                      NUMBER OF ATTENDANTS (May)

**Attendance Daily:**

Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs	Friday	Monthly Attendance
144	446	207	353	240	1390

**COMPLETED EVENTS:**

- Increasing one's knowledge: Enhancing One's Memory                      May 15
- Senior Highlights...Jaynis Pixley artist                      May 22
- Lasagna & Sinatra entertainment                      May 25
- Summer Breeze entertainment w/ Nicky D                      June 1
- Ice Cream Social                      June 8
- Elder Law, Trusts & Probate Legal seminar                      June 6
- Motivational speaker Trevor Smith Laugh for the Health of it                      June 15

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Silk Scarf Painting                      June 27
- "Chateau in France"                      June 29
- Ice Cream Social                      July 11
- Build Your Own History                      July 13
- Passport in Place                      July 27
- Discussion & Writing Group                      July 25

**TRIPS:**

- Mohegan Sun                      June 13
- Whale Watch from Boston                      July 19
- Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Ride                      July 25
- Sight & Sound Theatre "Jesus" & Lancaster, PA                      Aug 6-8

**VAN TRIPS:**

- Tuesday afternoons visit a different Ice Cream Stops
- 12:30 Wii bowling at Nunnawauk (Tuesdays)
- Lunch Bunch    May 24    June 14    July 6    Aug 29

**SPEAKERS:**

**Lunch and Learns:**

1. Motivational speaker Trevor Smith Laugh for the Health of it                      June 15
2. HART transportation Forum                      June 22
3. "Chateaux in France" local photographer/travel/speaker                      June 29
4. Build Your Own History Book                      July 13
5. Passport in Place                      July 27

**Cultural History (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays @ 10:30) and Wellness Series (4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays @ 10:30)**

- New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad    July 12
- Computer Anxiety & the Technology Gap                      July 26

**Health & Wellness Program:**

Matter of Balance 8 week course sponsored by BVNA & Newtown Health dept.  
(ongoing)

May 2- June 20

- Filled with wait list
- Will repeat program in Fall

**ENTERTAINMENT:**

Hawaiian Luau w/ Jose Aug 3

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

Art Show (Jaynis Pixley)  
Lasagna, Lunch and Sinatra ( River Glen)  
Chair Massage (Debora Brockmier)  
Summer Breeze (w/ Nicky D entertainment)  
Elder Law, Trusts & Probate (Murphy , Murphy & O'Grady)  
Ice Cream Social (River Glen)  
Laugh for the Health of It (Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Trevor Smith)

New program, Zumba Gold starts in mid July  
History/Wellness series will be ongoing every month

Annual Holiday Hill Senior Statewide Picnic is August 20  
HART will be providing transportation (free) also NSC van

All events were very well attended. The Lunch and Learns are all very popular that we have a wait list. These events are filled to maximum capacity.  
Each event with overflow in parking lot we always utilize the SH fire dept. back parking lot.

**Transportation Forum with HART**

It is scheduled Friday June 22 @ noon. This is also a Lunch & Learn.

More to report on Monday  
Marilyn

# **DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES/MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY**

**June 2018**

## **Program Statistics**

Energy Assistance Applications – 2017-2018 (168 applications – 104 Senior/Disabled = 62%)

Food Pantry (56 individuals/families visit weekly – 39 Senior/Disabled = 69%)

Operation Fuel (Winter/Spring program) – (21 applications – total \$9,956.80 – 8 Seniors = 38%)

Salvation Army – (29 applications to date - \$10,507.46 total – 14 Senior/Disabled = 48%)

Renter's Rebate for 2017 – 35 applications to date

- Continuing to help a senior move back to Germany; have taken her to Social Security several times to go over options to transfer benefits.
- Met with a disabled man (age 55) who recently lost his mother who he lived with and whose social security was their only income. Got his food stamps and Husky insurance in place. In the near future, will be taking him to Social Security to continue the process of his SSD application.
- Met with Jennifer Crane (CSW), Captain Vanghele, Melissa McShane (C.I.T.), Health Director Donna Culbert, and Officer McCarthy to discuss common cases. Will be meeting on a monthly basis to share information and work on cases.
- Joined members of FONS, COA members, and Community Center Director Matt Arriniella on a trip to visit The Mather Center in Darien and some of the leaders in their community. We discussed the AARP Livable Community initiative which Newtown is involved in. They also shared the steps they took to develop initiatives in cooperation with their social services department, senior services, commission on aging and other groups. Very informative! Intend to get together with their Director of Social Services to further discuss the "At Home in Darien" group – the group helps seniors live independently and comfortably in their community. This is something that Newtown needs desperately.



## **RENTER'S RIGHTS**

All renters have legal rights. You have these rights even if:

- you do not have written lease agreement,
- you signed an agreement, or
- you told your landlord you will give up your rights.

Your landlord must:

1. Follow all health and safety laws so that the building, apartments, and common areas are safe. Common areas include the driveway, yard, halls, and laundry rooms.
2. Make all repairs needed to keep your apartment fit and livable.
3. Keep all electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation, appliances, and other landlord-supplied features (such as elevators and appliances) working and safe.
4. Provide containers for trash and arrange for its removal.
5. Supply heat, running water, and hot water. (A landlord may require you to pay for gas, oil, electricity, or water.)
6. Repair cracked, chipped, or peeling paint and remove paint that contains dangerous and illegal amounts of lead. Lead is very dangerous for small children and pregnant women. Call your Health Department if you are worried about lead in your apartment.

If your landlord does not do one or more of these things, you have the right to complain to town's housing code enforcement agency. If repairs are still not made after you complain, you may sue your landlord, pay your rent to the court, and ask the court to order a refund.

**Warning! Do not stop paying your rent until the court decides your case.**

Statewide Legal Services – 1-800-453-3320

COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	NEW SENIOR CENTER	GRANT	BALANCE
4/20/2018	March P-Card- Big Y	(76.58)					44,601.65
4/20/2018	March P-Card- BJ's	(109.74)					44,491.91
4/23/2018	Trust Distribution T-49491			649.95			45,141.86
4/23/2018	Senior Center shirts T-50119		12.00				45,153.86
4/26/2018	Ck #31677- Borrow My Glasses LLC	(1,126.00)					44,027.86
5/24/2018	Donation- Lions Club- Furniture for new Center		1,000.00				45,027.86
		(11,568.62)	3,846.99	2,336.40			45,027.86

## Democrats to Aid in Blocking Cuts to Senior Meals

HARTFORD — House Republican Leader Themis Klarides today called upon Democrats to join in efforts to block Gov. Malloy's scheduled cut of \$2 million from senior meals programs when the legislature convenes in a veto session June 25.

Malloy wants to cut the money to help balance the state budget.

"Of all the places the Governor could have chosen to make these cuts he picked out a vital program that feeds the elderly and needy. There are other items he could have selected that make more sense and would not directly affect such a large and vulnerable population," Klarides said.

The legislature, in passing a bipartisan budget last month, purposefully limited the Governor's authority to make targeted cuts or "lapses" as they are known, including such areas as municipal aid, education and fire schools. Included in the budget was a \$9.5 million unspecified lapse that Malloy is required to put in place to help balance the budget.

Klarides suggested several areas could be cut instead. She noted that there is more than \$400 million in administrative costs across dozens of state agencies and that a reduction of .5 percent would equal the \$2 million Malloy intends to take from nutrition accounts. The legislature specifically added \$2 million to the meals program accounts in the final version of the budget.

Klarides also said that the state is going to spend \$4.1 million this year on marketing, and that state employee union stewards get paid \$3 million a year to conduct union business on the taxpayers' dime.

"We are asking Democrats to join us in passing legislation when we convene for the veto session June 25," Klarides said. Once the veto session is concluded the legislature can call itself into another session to deal with the nutrition programs cuts that will go into effect if no action is taken.

117,000 ÷ 5 areas in Aging  
negotiating  
Phone or email Governor