

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING**

JULY 16, 2018 5:00 pm

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

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, July 16, 2018 at 5:00 pm at the Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Wiedemann called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

PRESENT: Anna Wiedemann, George Guidera, Barbara Bloom, John Boccuzzi, LeReine Frampton, Anne Rothstein, Ruby Ryles, Curt Symes, Mae Schmidle, Larry Passaro, Claire Theune.

ABSENT: Maureen Will.

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Director of Social Services Ann LoBosco, Officer Maryhelen McCarthy, Newtown Police Department Officer, Nunnawauk Meadows Executive Director Judy Slason, Cyrenius H. Booth Library Assistant Director Beryl Harrison, 7 members of the public.

VOTER COMMENTS: None. Ms. Wiedemann reviewed public participation and the chair duty of maintaining order and decorum. (Attachment)

MINUTES: MR. GUIDERA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18, 2018 MEETING. SECOND BY MR. SYMES. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (11-0)

REPORTS:

CHAIR REPORT: Ms. Wiedemann distributed the monthly Chair Report. Ms. Wiedemann highlighted the Public Building & Site meeting, Shelton Senior Center visit, reschedule of Borrow My Glasses program to October 27 & November 3, programming efforts, and the Bread Program. Mr. Passaro asked about supermarket bread delivery, Ms. Wiedemann to look into and will reach out to Ms. Place. (Attachment)

VICE CHAIR REPORT: Mr. Guidera said that last Friday they had meeting on programming, all agreed it is a priority to get programming in shape as soon as possible now and for new senior center, he encouraged others to attend programming subcommittee meetings which occur at 4:00 in Council Chambers on the Friday before COA regular meetings. Working on new programs to address needs and interest, Ms. Bloom said that square footage in the new spaces will help determine capacity levels for programs. Mr. Symes added to consider infrastructure, activity tracks, as development of quality programming moves forward.

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES: In Ms. Place's absence, Ms. Wiedemann shared the Director of Senior Services report. (Attachment) Ms. Place had asked Ms. Wiedemann to bring to COA the payment for the annual picnic. MR. BOCCUZZI MOVED TO APPROVE \$442.00 FROM THE GIFT FUND TO PAY FOR 13 PEOPLE (10 SENIORS PLUS MS. PLACE, JUDY, & BOB) AT \$34 PER PERSON TO ATTEND AT THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY HILL SENIOR

STATEWIDE PICNIC. SECOND BY MR. SYMES. Mr. Passaro asked for more information about selection process, Ms. Will explained it is need based and coordinated with Ms. LoBosco and Ms. Place. The number has usually been to cover 13 people including staff, Mr. Guidera suggested to increase the number to 18 to insure that Ms. LoBosco and Ms. Place have enough should there be a need to include more seniors at their discretion. MR. GUIDERA MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO PAY FOR UP TO 18 PEOPLE (15 SENIORS PLUS MS. PLACE, JUDY, & BOB) AT \$34 PER PERSON, \$612.00, TO ATTEND AT THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY HILL SENIOR STATEWIDE PICNIC AT THE DISCRETION OF MS. PLACE AND MS. LOBOSCO. SECOND BY MS. BLOOM. ALL IN FAVOR TO AMEND. AMENDMENT PASSES. (11-0) MOTION PASSES TO APPROVE UP TO \$612.00 FROM THE GIFT FUND TO PAY FOR UP TO 18 PEOPLE (15 SENIORS PLUS MS. PLACE, JUDY, & BOB) AT \$34 PER PERSON TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY HILL SENIOR STATEWIDE PICNIC AT THE DISCRETION OF MS. PLACE AND MS. LOBOSCO. ALL IN FAVOR. (11-0)

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES: Ms. LoBosco distributed the Director of Social Services report. (Attachment) Ms. LoBosco reviewed renters rebate, operation fuel, Food Pantry is low, VNA closet is busy. Location for Municipal Agent under discussion due to relocation of Police Department.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Rothstein distributed the Treasurer's Report. (Attachment) MS. SCHMIDLE MOVED TO FILE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUDIT. SECOND BY MR. SYMES. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (11-0)

GRANTS COMMITTEE: John Boccuzzi & Barbara Bloom – grant for bus stop structure was declined, grant for study still alive. Mr. Boccuzzi to look at transportation options in Newtown, funding to support study, should hear over the summer. Arts grant is pending, look to find another grant for the bus stop structure and Ethan Allen for furniture.

NEWSLETTER SUBCOMMITTEE: Mr. Guidera is looking into newsletter programming. Mr. Rosenthal to look into advertising possibility. Newsletter options include vendor selection, outside company, advertising potential, website inclusion, editing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Livable Community – Mr. Boccuzzi said a report from the work is forthcoming, review before presenting to the Board of Selectman. Suggestion of naming the new senior center is in preliminary stages, naming contest considered, name for accreditation also needs to be taken under consideration.

Ms. Wiedemann introduced Ms. Slason, new Executive Director of Nunnawauk Meadows.

MS. FRAMPTON MOVED TO CHANGE THE AUGUST 20, 2018 COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING TO AUGUST 27, 2018. SECOND BY MR. GUIDERA. August 20 is the annual picnic date making it challenging to attend the COA meeting at 5:00. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (11-0)

MS. SCHMIDLE MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION ON AGING HAVE A PRESENCE IN THE 2018 NEWTOWN LABOR DAY PARADE. SECOND BY MR. SYMES. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (11-0)

Ms. Rothstein brought up a July 14 article in the Newtown Bee with incorrect information, clarification response discussed, Ms. Ryles suggested a comprehensive presentation with offer for interview by the Newtown Bee for a more comprehensive article.

ADJOURNMENT: THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, MR. GUIDERA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:04 PM. SECOND BY MS. SCHMIDLE. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSES. (11-0)

Respectfully submitted,

June Sgobbo, Clerk

Attachments: Public Participation, Chair Report, Director of Senior Services Report, Director of Social Services/Municipal Agent for the Elderly Report, Audit Report.

You will notice we have one public participation on this agenda. Anyone wishing to speak may only speak to any item on the agenda.

The chairs duties include maintaining order and decorum. As public participation has in the past been abused then if decorum cannot be met, the person causing the issue will be removed from the meeting. Robert's Rules of Order states "that speakers in a meeting treat one another with the finest decencies of society. Decorum is understood!" "the presiding officer, in execution of his/her duty to preserve order and decorum, may have the offending party removed." I have spoken to Chief Viadero who has instructed me to call for a brief recess and contact the PD. I do not wish to involve the officer that attends our meetings as to not put her in an awkward position.

The Open Public Meetings Act does not require that citizens be allowed to participate and speak at meetings (other than public hearings). That Act merely specifies that the public has a right to attend meetings, except for executive sessions. It is up to the board or council to determine in their rules of procedure if and for how long citizens will be allowed to speak at meetings.

If speakers take too much time or engage in personal attacks on members, it may be necessary for them to be cut short. Members are expected to be polite to citizens appearing before them, but there is no requirement that they subject themselves to intimidation by rude speakers.

Commission on Aging Chair Report for July 16, 2018

We need to be out of the MC Council Chambers by 6:15 because the BOF has a special meeting that needs to start at 6:30. Please try to be on time so we can get through the agenda in a timely manner.

Public Building and Site – June 26th meeting:

No bonus to builders if they finish early. By the same token, no penalty if they finish late.

There is a ¼ million dollars left in contingency

Minutes pertaining to the PB&S Community Center/Senior Center portion, are attached.

As far as Borrow My Glasses goes, this is something that Marilyn and I had the pleasure of hearing when we went to a conference. Our Director, Marilyn, and I thought this was a great program to share with our community and the COA all agreed. Marilyn and I called Donna Fedus and decided on the topics. The first one is “If I See Something, Do I Have to Say or Do Something?” The second one is “Successful Communication Given Alzheimer’s Logic”. We are moving the dates into the fall. The first one will be Saturday, October 27 and Saturday, November 3rd. I have contacted by phone and email both Central Office and the high school. I realize with it being summer, I may not hear back right away. We were looking to hold it in the Lecture Hall. The times will either be 10-12:00 or 1-3:00. Does anyone have a preference? Ms. Fedus does not. What may drive the decision is the availability of the Lecture Hall or somewhere else.

As for looking at Programming, this is something that was requested of our Commission by the First Selectman. We lack younger seniors and men. This is merely a sign of the times. When other Centers have introduced different programs, this drew not only a different crowd but the current members loved the new programs as well. The Selectman’s suggestion of looking at new programming now is an excellent way of gauging what programs could work introduced now and once the new Center opens. Yes, we have room constraints (but don’t necessarily have to meet at the Center) but the idea is to see what appeals to folks so that when the new Center opens, we have some wonderful new additions to the schedule that will bring in more new faces. It’s also a great way of finding out what will and won’t work, so that we truly can hit the ground running. Our goal is to simply look at new ways to attract new faces and look at programs that would appeal to all ages of seniors. By the way, our By-Laws state that we are “to develop and coordinate programs and recommend for hiring, staff to meet those needs”. We have not been diligent in doing this and need to be more collaborative in our efforts as a COA.

When looking at Grants, our By-Laws also read “prepare written opinions on the merits of programs for which grants are proposed”. This along with the changes in the Charter, require us to be good stewards when looking at Grant opportunities.

As for the Bread Program listed on our agenda, most senior centers have something like this. Leftover bread, rolls, cookies, and sometimes cakes are donated. Brookfield gets lots of stuff from Costco at least once a week maybe more often. Southbury gets delivery from the local Panera, Danbury also has stuff but I’m not sure where it comes from. Matt mentioned that Stew Leonard delivers to several senior centers. Seniors are encouraged to help themselves. I’m told that Newtown did do this a while back, but I’m not sure why it was discontinued. Bringing this back might be another way to bring new seniors to the Center, and at no cost to us.

Regards, Anna Wiedemann, Chair COA

NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER
Director of Senior Services
June 16, 2018-July 14, 2018

PROGRAMS	NUMBER OF ATTENDANTS (June)
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Meditation	30
Exercise Tape	83
Flex and Fit	63
Fitness Fury	126
Floor Yoga (2 days)	93
Chair Yoga (2 day)	104
Cards/Canasta	128
Poker	42
Mah Jong	4
Bingo/Keno	28
Lunch	130
Hot Dog/pizza Luncheon	28
Knitting	49
Jewelry	
Bible Study	7
Iris Fold cards	
Quilting/sewing	8
Walk-Ins	16
Billiards/ping pong	12
Crafts	
Trips	42
Newsletter	4
Wii	17
Painting/Art	11
Special events/entertainment	99
Tai Chi	38
Qi Gong	44
AARP Safe Driving	
Ballroom dance	6
Barn Dance	44
Women's Discussion	32
Hot Topic's	18
Spanish Lessons	40
Speakers	86
Chair Pilates	44
Strength & Balance	30
Inter-generational w/ CAC	40
Password	8
Blood Pressure	22
Matter of Balance	18

Attendance Daily:

Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs	Friday	Monthly Attendance
262	368	239	414	345	1628

COMPLETED EVENTS:

- Motivational speaker Trevor Smith Laugh for the Health of it June 15
- Silk Scarf Painting June 27
- "Chateau in France" June 29
- Ice Cream Social July 11
- Build Your Own History July 13

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Passport in Place "Global Journey" July 27
- "Letter to my Younger Self" Discussion & Writing Group July 25
- "Keep Cool" Bingo Aug 1
- Hawaiian Luau Aug 3
- AARP Driving Course Aug 10
- Ice Cream Social w/ Bob Mel Entertainer Aug 10
- Opera-Kadabra Aug 13
- Center Lounge "Las Vegas Legends" w/ Nicky D Aug 17
- Annual Summer Picnic @ Holiday Hill Aug 20

TRIPS:

- Whale Watch from Boston July 19
- Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Ride July 25
- Sight & Sound Theatre "Jesus" & Lancaster, PA Aug 6-8
- Mohegan Sun Aug 15
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VAN TRIPS:

- Tuesday afternoons visit a different Ice Cream Stops
- 12:30 Wii bowling at Nunnawauk (Tuesdays)
- Bobby Rydell @ Aqua Turf Aug 16
- Holiday Hill Aug 20
- Lunch Bunch July 6 Port Jeff Aug 29

SPEAKERS:

Lunch and Learns:

1. Passport in Place "Global Journey" w/ Lia Levitt July 27
2. Hawaiian Luau w/ Jose Paulo Aug 3
3. Amazing Women in History w/ David Plaue Aug 24
4. NSC Gathering Aug 31

Cultural History (2nd Thursdays @ 10:30) and Wellness Series (4th Thursdays @ 10:30)

- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Aug 9
- Parent Child Role Reversal Aug 23

Health & Wellness Program:

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

- Great program, will repeat in Fall

ENTERTAINMENT:

- Hawaiian Luau w/ Jose Aug 3
- Ice Cream Social w/ Bob Mel Entertainer Aug 10
- Opera-Kadabra Aug 13
- Center Lounge "Las Vegas Legends" w/ Nicky D Aug 17

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

New program, Zumba Gold started July 11. Great instructor from Fitness Fury

History/Wellness series will be ongoing every month. Started July 12.

Great turn out.

Time at 10:30 am works very well.

Annual Holiday Hill Senior Statewide Picnic is August 20

NOTE: **GIFT FUND:**

Annual picnic is Aug 20. As in the past staff and 10 seniors are sponsored by the gift fund. Myself ,Judy and Bob (3) plus 10 seniors. 13 @ \$34 each is \$442.00.

HART will be providing transportation (free) also NSC van will be used.

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.

Motivational speaker Trevor Smith	Laugh for the Health of it	June 15
• This program was so well received/enjoyed	it will continue	Sept 28
HART transportation Forum		June 22
• New faces , many sign-ups for ridership		
"Chateaux in France" local photographer/travel/speaker		June 29
• Most enjoyable presentation and topic. This was the start of the PASSPORT in PLACE new program.		
Build Your Own History Book		July 13
• This is a history inter-action program. The series continues	w/ Amazing Women in History	
Passport in Place		July 27
• Perfect program for travelers young at heart		

Each event with overflow in parking lot we always utilize the SH fire dept. back parking lot.

I'm doing the Newsletter once a month again to see if that's the way to go.

I've noticed Danbury SC switched to every other month.

My Senior Center Program is in play.

Members need to come in, re-new membership and receive their key card.

Once complete it will be an accurate source for stats etc. Also, robo calls!

Work in progress.

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 (Spring/Summer) – (4 applications – total \$1,464.81– 1 Seniors = 25%)

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

Renter's Rebate for 2017 – 43 applications to date

- Operation Fuel has begun its summer program. The program provides up to \$500 to help a client with electric bill (whether electric is their primary or secondary source of heat).
- As a result of meeting with the Community Behavioral/Prevention Team, met with a senior who is facing eviction (she lives with her daughter and son-in-law). Daryl from Newtown Youth & Family meets with her on a weekly basis to help with paperwork, etc. It is a complicated situation. At this point, I will try to sign her up to MSP to save her some money.
- Working with another senior (age 62) who has become homeless due to job loss (could not pay rent). She periodically stays with friends but I have been helping with senior housing applications, looking for reasonable rentals. She has been interviewing for jobs but has found it challenging due to her age. Trying to hold off collecting her S.S. early.
- Getting ready for backpacks in August; fuel assistance will begin on September 4th; met with the Newtown Fund to discuss this year's holiday basket program.

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND		C/R	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	BALANCE
		C/D				
7/1/17	Beginning Balance					50,413.09
7/19/2017	Trust Distribution T-5327				562.15	50,975.24
8/17/2017	Ck #28743- Newtown Labor Day Parade	(100.00)				50,875.24
9/14/2017	Ck #29076 -File of Life Foundation	(402.00)				50,473.24
9/14/2017	Donation- Bazaar T-15963			89.74		50,562.98
9/20/2016	Aug P-Card- Holiday Inn	(429.00)				50,133.98
9/26/2017	Aug P-Card- Minuteman Press	(219.00)				49,914.98
10/12/2017	Sign Language LLC- Signs for Labor Day	(254.50)				49,660.48
10/18/2017	Trust Distribution T-22061				562.15	50,222.63
10/24/2017	Sept P-Card- BJ's	(285.46)				49,937.17
11/9/2017	Ck #29836- Michael's At The Grove	(200.00)				49,737.17
11/30/2017	Holiday Bazaar T-28787			2,126.75		51,863.92
12/7/2017	Ck #30151 John E. Hemberger	(200.00)				51,663.92
12/7/2017	Ck#30185- Michael's at the Grove	(595.00)				51,068.92
12/12/2017	WCAAA award- Focal Points T-31187			200.00		51,268.92
12/12/2017	Annual Holiday Bazaar- T-31206			56.50		51,325.42
12/14/2017	Holiday Party Raffle T-31345			322.00		51,647.42
1/16/2018	Nov P-Card-Big Y	(71.34)				51,576.08
1/18/2018	Ck # 30740 - Xavus Solutions LLC	(7,500.00)				44,076.08
1/18/2018	Trust Distribution T-35678				562.15	44,638.23
3/14/2018	Senior Center shirts T-47021			40.00		44,678.23
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
				3,846.99	2,336.40	45,027.86