

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 25, 2019
MUNICIPAL CENTER
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT
Council Chamber
5:00 PM

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT OF THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING.

The Commission On Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, February 25, 2019 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 5:02 pm.

PRESENT: Anna Wiedemann, George Guidera (5:09), Barbara Bloom, LeReine Frampton (5:23), Anne Rothstein, Curt Symes. Alternates: Larry Passaro, Joanne Albanesi.

ABSENT: John Boccuzzi, Ruby Ryles, Mae Schmidle, Claire Theune.

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, State Representative Mitch Bolinsky, State Senator Tony Hwang, Community Center Director Matt Ariniello, Senior Center Assistant Judy Thomas, Cyrenius H. Booth Library Assistant Director Beryl Harrison, 5 public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

MINUTES: MS. BLOOM MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2019 MEETING. SECOND BY MR. SYMES. ALL IN FAVOR. (8-0) MOTION PASSES.

REPORTS

INFORMATION ON HB 7102 – AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR CENTERS:

Mr. Bolinsky and Mr. Hwang spoke on behalf of the House Bill 7102, An Act Concerning Senior Centers. Mr. Bolinsky explained that this bill states that each municipality, by municipality ordinance, shall appoint a municipal agent for elderly persons. This is a very neutral bill, create a task force, to try and determine best practices for senior centers. Newtown has a municipal agent for the elderly, currently vacant, most communities do not have a municipal agent. The bill has permissive language to allow a municipal agent. Both Mr. Bolinsky and Mr. Hwang support this bill. Mr. Hwang said that he sees it as recognition, and that the rest of the state should understand and appreciate how important senior centers are to the community. Aging in place is a priority. Mr. Passaro commented about provisions and tax changes that affect seniors directly or indirectly. Ms. Wiedemann requested a list of bills coming out and who to reach out to. Mr. Bolinsky and Mr. Hwang agreed to provide that information to Ms.

COMMISSION ON AGING

Wiedemann. Mr. Symes thanked Mr. Bolinsky and Mr. Hwang for being active proponents of seniors.

CHAIR REPORT: Ms. Wiedemann reviewed the Chair Report (ATTACHMENT) and added that the High School is putting on Mary Poppins on March 20, flyer to follow. Public Building & Site meeting at the Reed School at 7:00 tomorrow. Legislative Council meeting tomorrow, senior tax relief is on the agenda. Waiting to hear back on information regarding “cheerleading seniors.” The policy for weather related issues is being looked at, if schools have a snow day, senior center will be closed, delays may be dealt with differently.

VICE CHAIR REPORT: Mr. Guidera announced that he is moving back to southern Fairfield county, will resign from this committee, and this will be his last meeting on the Commission On Aging. Mr. Rosenthal, Mr. Bolinsky, Mr. Hwang, and Ms. Wiedemann acknowledged his good work over the years and thanked him for his participation on the Commission On Aging.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Ms. Rothstein shared the Treasurer’s Report. (ATTACHMENT) MS. FRAMPTON MOVED TO SEND THE TREASURER’S REPORT TO AUDIT. SECOND BY MS. ROTHSTEIN. ALL IN FAVOR. (8-0) MOTION PASSES.

Mr. Symes asked for a yearly annual list of reoccurring expenses. Ms. Rothstein will provide and share that at the next meeting.

SENIOR CENTER REPORTS: Ms. Wiedemann distributed the Senior Center reports. (ATTACHMENT) There are 44 new members since January 22. The database is cleaned up, generated list, student from the high school helping, emails can be exported and used for Constant Contact. Ms. Wiedemann thanked those who have volunteered recently at the Senior Center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GRANTS COMMITTEE: Ms. Bloom is starting the process to apply for grant for ceramics class and maybe an exercise/dance program, possibly also to help with furniture. Mr. Symes asked about the budget for the senior center and donations/gifts. Mr. Rosenthal said the budget is on track with the building budget and overall contingency was lean. Will use existing furniture. Gifts in kind need to go through the Board of Selectmen, monetary gifts go through Mr. Tait. Anticipated opening in June.

RESOURCE GUIDE: Ms. Wiedemann said it is ready to print and will order a small run at this time. Will update as necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

FEE STRUCTURE/MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

Ms. Bloom suggested changing the age to 55 to encourage more members. Ms. Wiedemann said that some senior centers are 55 or even 50, people have asked if they can join at 55.

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MS. BLOOM MOVED TO SEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN A RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE THE SENIOR CENTER MEMBERSHIP AGE TO 55. SECOND BY MS. FRAMPTON. ALL IN FAVOR. (8-0) MOTION PASSES.

SENIOR BUTTON ON NEWTOWN'S WEBSITE: On the new website.

VOLUNTEERS TO COVER LUNCHESES AT SENIOR CENTER: Ms. Wiedemann passed out a sign-up sheet. Ms. Wiedemann acknowledged Ms. Thomas' hard work on the newsletter. She thanked Mr. Ariniello, Ms. Mangold, members of the Commission On Aging, volunteers for stepping up at the Senior Center. Mr. Rosenthal concurred and said that there has been no drop in service, there is more programming attention, membership has increased. Mr. Symes acknowledged Ms. Wiedemann's efforts in coordinating the listening sessions with First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, positive, good outreach, very well attended.

LIVABLE COMMUNITY UPDATE – (ATTACHED)

ADJOURNMENT: THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, MS. BLOOM MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:44 PM. SECOND BY MS. FRAMPTON. ALL IN FAVOR. (8-0) MOTION PASSES.

Respectfully submitted,

June Sgobbo, Clerk

Attachments: Chair Report, Social Services Report, Report from Curt Symes, Senior Center Reports, Treasurer's Report, Age Friendly Livable Community Report.

Commission on Aging Chair Report February 25, 2019

There is a clipboard going around at Monday's meeting. The last page is for anyone in the audience to sign their name and phone number if they'd like more information about anything regarding the Senior Center and/or COA.

Also on the clipboard is information about the TRIAD, COA Bylaws, job description for the Director of Human Services (formerly known as the Director of Senior Services), a flyer about the upcoming Senior Citizen Dinner Dance sponsored by Parks and Recreation on May 31st, and an article in the Bee regarding the meeting Selectman Rosenthal held at the CHBooth Library on February 6th. There is also a copy of what the Town's Webpage looks like with the link to Senior Resources and Information. And lastly, an article about CHOICES training.

I would like us to discuss doing a printing of the Resource Guide. We are called on a daily basis asking for some and we have no more to give out. I propose removing the Director page and printing some now and then having the new hire add their welcome note to a future printing.

I attended the Public Building and Site meeting on February 5th. Basically, the sheetrock is done and 90% of the taping is complete. A walk through for the Seniors may be planned for May. Chairman Bob Mitchell will put together a list of furniture items and Bocce Ball with costs attached. Here's a link to their minutes: https://www.newtown-ct.gov/sites/newtownct/files/minutes/2-5-19_pbsc_minutes.pdf

Here is the agenda to PB&S next meeting on Tuesday, February 26 at 7pm. <https://www.newtown-ct.gov/sites/newtownct/files/agendas/20190220130111136.pdf>

We had created a timeline back in October. We need to revise that as soon as the information regarding membership costs, tier structure, programming, etc. is done. Director Ariniello sent me this "I do have some estimates on doing a mailer in the tax letter. It is \$700.00 to have the insert put in plus the cost of the printing for 35,000 pieces. I am getting some cost estimates now- this would need to be done by May to be inserted in the June bills". He is also getting 3 bids for printing. One of which is Newtown High School Graphics Department.

We will adjust our timeline accordingly once the other pieces are in place. Constant Contact has emails. The membership book has been completely updated on line. I merged anyone with emails with our current email system. We will put

something in the Bee to encourage Seniors (and any citizens really who'd like to be a part of this information gateway) to give us their emails. This is something that will also go into the mailers.

Ruby Ryles will be back soon and will help revamp/update the May/June newsletter. In the meantime, Ruby has updated the Age Well CT site she was a part of. She will continue to oversee that and put updated information up, current newsletters, etc. until a new Director is in place.

I will have copies of the agenda, last month's minutes, a report from Social Services and a printout from My Senior Center reports, Curt Symes report and the Livable Community that John Boccuzzi sent me.

I am passing around a Volunteer sign up for the month of March. If you are able to help for a few hours so Judy can go to lunch and get some work done that would be great. You can sign up for anytime between 10 and 2. Judy's lunch hour is 12-1:00. Any time you can give, is appreciated.

As always, thank you all for your time and help.

Anna Wiedemann, Chair, Newtown COA

FROM AMY MANGOLD – DIRECTOR OF PARK AND REC

Hi Anna,

I would just love for the group to know that the Senior Pickleball on Mondays at Edmond Town Hall has been a great success.

Also perhaps about the Senior Dinner Dance on May 31st at the Newtown High School Cafetorium. Rose Ann has been working with some of the seniors from the center to plan this event otherwise known as the Senior Prom. It is the 4th annual celebrating the 50s, 60s & 70s.

That is it for now. unless you can think of anything you would like me to report on.

Thank you,
Amy

January/February 2019

Program Statistics:

Energy Assistance Applications – 2018/2019 (171 applications - 106

Senior/disabled = 62%. Applications are being accepted through May, 1st

Food Pantry - 47 families visit weekly- 31 Senior/disabled = 66%

Operation Fuel Applications—Dec, 2018 to present = 5 applications \$2061.28 total

Salvation Army Request (10/1/2018 through 2/19/2019) -24 applications

\$ 8,660.72 total- 7 Senior/Disabled = 1.68%

Renters Rebate for 2018 = 81 applications

Renters Rebate for the upcoming year begins April 1, 2019 and runs through September 30, 2019.

Newtown COA - Feb. 25 Mtg. Report - submitted by Commissioner Curt Symes

WestCOG Transportation Status (Updated Report from Jan. Mtg.)

What is the Western CT Council of Governments - a Regional State body based in Sandy Hook and tasked with numerous responsibilities including Transportation and Roads Infrastructure. Details are on their website - www.westcog.org and their Long Range Plan Draft Report is due out on 2/27/19 with Responses due by 3/29/19. All Newtown interested and effected parties should plan on responding. This is a Quality-of-Life issue here in and around both Newtown and the greater Danbury area.

Newtown Website “Senior Resources & Information” Button Research & Planning (Updated Report from Jan. Mtg.)

The Town Clerk’s Office has initially added the requested entry to the Town Website - www.newtown-ct.gov main page and clicking on it directs the Senior to a list of senior relevant topics. Further information structure and flow is being researched. This is currently and will be a starting point into future developments. It could also be a launch pad into the much needed “future” Calendar of Senior Relevant Events.

Newtown Continuing Education “What’s Happening in (and around) Newtown for Seniors”

The NCE Spring 2019 Brochure is being distributed and comprises a series of both fee & free classes and sessions for Seniors and/or their family members looking for information about important Life-Planning topics, as well as, new developments on the Senior Center, Community Center, Pools, Police Dept. Building and Economic Development, Wellness & Volunteerism. There will be Guest Speakers from a variety of town functions, as well as, the Friends of

Newtown Seniors (FONS) over the course of the 4 monthly sessions – 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12.

FONS has now achieved 501c3 status and recognition across the county and AARP has been collaborating with FONS and the COA on the new “Age Friendly – Livable Community Initiative”. For more information FONS & the AF-LCI groups meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5pm at Maplewood of Newtown.

Town tours of the New Senior Center are anticipated in the May timeframe with Opening still holding/planned for June.

A related topic of interest that will be discussed is the progress and status of State of CT - H.B. No. 7102 - Proposal regarding Support for Senior Center Planning, Development & Services and the relationship to town COAs.

Finally, The Newtown Bee both Online & Hardcopy forms of media are actively soliciting Senior-related Activity & Event submissions (on a timely basis) for inclusion in their coverage of Senior News for Newtown.

Remember, The Newtown Bee is the “Town Record” for all things going on in Newtown and the Voices out of Southbury actively collaborates in covering key town events, as well. Support them both by reading about what is going on and sending them relevant event information with reasonable lead time. They both do great online electronic media and hardcopy too!

	A	B	C	E
1	Event Occurrences from 01/01/2019 to 01/31/2019			
2	Filters:			
3		Site(s):	All	
4				
5	Category	Event	# of Events	Unduplicated
6	Classes/Workshops			
7		Art in the Atrium	3	5
8		Ballroom Dance Lessons	3	0
9		Cultural History Discussion	2	9
10		Knitting	4	17
11		sewing/quilting	1	2
12		SPANISH	5	14
13		Total	18	43
14	Health Screenings			
15		Blood Pressure	5	6
16		Total	5	6
17	Health/Fitness			
18		Chair Pilates	2	15
19		Chair Yoga	7	23
20		Fitness Fury	7	27
21		Flex & Fit	4	20
22		LINE/COUNTRY DANCING	2	23
23		Morning Meditation	3	9
24		Qi Gong	4	6
25		Strength training	5	20
26		Support & Wellness	1	0
27		Tai Chi	4	14
28		video exercise 2	7	11
29		Yoga	8	28
30		Zumba	4	19
31		Total	58	110
32	Nutrition			
33		Lunch	18	21
34		Total	18	21
35	Off Site Excursions			
36		Lunch Bunch	1	3
37		Total	1	3
38	Recreation/Entertainment			
39		Canasta	4	0
40		Keno	1	0
41		Mandala Adult Coloring	2	1
42		POOL	12	2
43		Total	19	3
44	Social Activity/Event			
45		Cards	18	16
46		Catch Phase	3	8
47		Catch Phrase	2	7
48		Craft with Patty	1	8
49		GAMES	1	0
50		Poker	4	7
51		Puzzles	17	5

	A	B	C	E
52		Quilting/Sewing	2	3
53		Rock Painting	1	0
54		Total	49	36
55	Socializing			
56		Socializing/Just Visiting	20	37
57		Total	20	37
58	Special Events			
59		FIRST SELECTMAN	1	11
60		Making Jewelry	1	1
61		Movie	1	5
62		Total	3	14
63	Special Groups			
64		Book club	1	4
65		Hot Topics	2	14
66		Men Breakfast Club	1	3
67		Social Services	1	1
68		Womens Discussion Group Chick	4	9
69		Total	9	26
70	Volunteer Opportunities			
71		Inter-generational programs	3	3
72		Total	3	3
73				
74		Grand Totals	203	179

150 Female
29 Male

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	People that were active between 01/01/2019 and 01/31/2019					
2	Filters:					
3		Age:	Between 60 and 100			
4		Site(s):	All			
5		Seniors:	Include Seniors with no activity in the date range			
6						
7	Age Range	Count	Percent			
8	Ages 55-59	4	1.0%			
9	Ages 60-64	23	5.5%			
10	Ages 65-69	69	16.6%			
11	Ages 70-74	100	24.0%			
12	Ages 75-79	74	17.8%			
13	Ages 80-84	67	16.1%			
14	Ages Below 55	2	0.5%			
15	Ages Over 85	77	18.5%			
16	Totals	416	100%			
17	City/Town	Count	Percent			
18	In Town	347	86.5%			
19	Out of Town	54	13.5%			
20	Totals	401	100%			
21	Deceased	Count	Percent			
22	No	401	100.0%			
23	Totals	401	100%			
24	Gender	Count	Percent			
25	Female	320	79.8%			
26	Male	78	19.5%			
27	Unknown	3	0.7%			
28	Totals	401	100%			

COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND 7/1/18 - present

February 25, 2019 Meeting

FRANK KNOTTS

NEW

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	TRUST FUND	SENIOR CENTER	GRANT	BALANCE
7/1/18	Beginning Balance						\$45,027.86
7/18/2018	Qrtly Distribution- Knotts Trust			\$649.95			\$45,677.81
9/13/2018	Ck #33354- Newtown Labor Day Parade	(\$100.00)					\$45,577.81
9/30/2018	Aug P-Card-Holiday Inn- (13 People)	(\$442.00)					\$45,135.81
10/18/2018	Qrtly Distribution- Knotts Trust			\$649.95			\$45,785.76
11/16/2018	Annual Bazaar- Receipts T-28167		\$2,059.75				\$47,845.51
	(earmarked for Bazaar volunteers)						
11/28/2018	Oct P-Card-Michael's At The Grove -Dep Hol. Part	(\$200.00)					\$47,645.51
11/29/2018	Dist. Deficiency payment for 2017(Knotts Trust)			\$377.00			\$48,022.51
12/6/2018	Ck #34393- John Hemberger- Holiday Party 12/6/1	(\$200.00)					\$47,822.51
12/11/2018	Tree from Bazaar T-31040		\$25.00				\$47,847.51
12/11/2018	Raffle Holiday Party T-31041		\$238.00				\$48,085.51
1/24/2019	Qrtly Distribution-Knotts Trust			\$649.95			\$48,735.46

Age Friendly Livable Newtown

Report to COA

February 25, 2019

Members: Ned Simpson, Barbara Bloom, Tracy Brady, Bill Brimmer, John Boccuzzi, Pat Llodra, Gary MacRae, Steve Rosenblatt, Curt Symes and Anna Wiedemann

Work Group Reports

Status	Work Group
In Process	A. Create a Newtown seniors distribution list (email and postal addresses) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting for appointment of new Senior Center Director to re-start discussion of mailing list collaboration Developing privacy and data use policy for FONS emails
In Process	B. Conduct a study of current transportation services – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completing research into current transportation services for Newtown seniors (and disabled)
In Process	E. Investigate the RUOK system to check in on seniors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compiling information from near-by towns and vendor to frame proposal for Newtown
In process	F. Senior/Volunteer column in The Bee and Voices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with writers to organize a portfolio and pipeline of articles Fa. Town event calendar – spin-off project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking to Town and community organizations about harvesting events and preparing them to publication in a town calendar
In process	H. Conduct First Responder training for dementia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing curriculum to share the volunteer ambulance service.
In process	I. Chore services available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Brady, founder and leader of Handy Dandy Handyman program presented the formation and structure of his program Meeting of some individuals that have expressed interest in getting a chore service going in Newtown considering HDHM and other chore service models
Monitor	K. Housatonic Habitat for Humanity Brush with Kindness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With departure of Social Services Dir we need to see that this does not slip between the cracks
Added	AA. Mini Medical Campus at Fairfield Hills (Community & Health Domain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued discussions
Added	AB. Senior Resources button on Newtown web site (Communications Domain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congratulation for Steve R with help from Wes Thompson and Curt S for arranging with Debbie Halstead, Town Clerk, to add a “Senior Resources and Information” button to the Town website. Looking to expand linked information
Added	AC. Explore affordable housing models (Housing Domain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings have been held with First Selectman and Town Director of Planning and Zoning re Wilton Community model and FFH buildings re-use
Ongoing	C. Hold regular meetings between School System and Seniors
Monitor	G. Submit program ideas to the COA New Senior Center Program Sub Committee
Ongoing	J. Social Events - FONS
Hold	D. Bring Habitat for Humanity housing project to Newtown
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft WestCOG transportation plan due out this month will be reviewed Need for volunteers with time and talent for leadership and task work Looking greater leverage from AARP CT

Senior Representatives on Town Committees

Gary MacRae Fairfield Hills Master Plan Review Comm
Ken Kerin Trails & Bikes Committee

Age Friendly Livable Newtown

Senior Group Roles

- NAFLC Steering Committee: Monitor and facilitate work on NAFLC goals & objectives. Communicate/coordinate with other Town initiatives. Tactical in nature
- CoA: Senior Center programs, senior services, senior advocacy, agent for Federal, State or Town boards, commissions, authorities or agencies
- FONS: Source for volunteers, activity sponsorship, communications vehicle, and senior advocacy