

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
Special Meeting
Monday, February 18, 2020
Called to order at 3:00pm

NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

Present: Anna Wiedemann, the following members were present via teleconference: Barbara Bloom, Joanne Albanesi, Ruby Ryles, Curt Symes, Larry Passaro, LeReine Frampton, Anne Rothstein, Cris Carvalho Fadus, Clare Thuene, John Boccuzzi

Absent: Bob Edwards

Also Present: Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Besty Jacobson(via teleconference)

Public Comment – None

Minutes – B. Bloom moved to approve the minutes of the 4/22/20 special meeting. J. Albanesi seconded, motion unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Director of Human Services update– N. Jackson highlighted items from her report (Att.) The crucial efforts are addressing immediate needs of the pandemic. Newtown Helping Hands has over 60 vetted volunteers aging 18 to 59 years old offering shopping and delivery service. The program has been a little slower getting started than they anticipated. To date they have 5 residents taking advantage of the service. Possibly the word did not reach the people in need or natural resources of family and neighbors. There is a Go Fund Me effort which has raised over \$10,000. Families and individuals in needs receive a hot restaurant meal on Wednesdays and Saturdays. This program is also through the Helping Hands. The senior meal continues and at capacity each week. It is normally 25 meals per day Monday-Thursday. They have been able to do some special Friday lunches and that is through the generosity of local restaurants and donations. The response has been overwhelming. There have been people that have not previously been engaged in the senior center and hope is that will continue when they get on the other side of the pandemic.

Most unfortunate situation is the social isolation. They are trying to come up with new ways to contact people and have them reach out to others. They did a zoom coffee and conversation that was well received. They are looking into doing the same for the lunch and learns.

It was suggested to alternate those taking advantage of the lunches to allow more people to take advantage of the lunches.

N. Jackson contacted Mary Helen to discuss bringing back the Triad. Their newish care navigator has a strong background working with seniors so she may be a good additional to that.

They are accepting books and have also referred people to the Friends of the Library. They will be storing them for a period of time, in a sense, getting their own quarantine.

First Selectman update – First Selectman Rosenthal reported that N. Jackson and her team have done a great job getting information out with constant contact and finding ways to connect with people.

We are seeing more testing and there will a jump in cases because of that. The testing that took place last week had 200 spots but only 100 registrations. The vast majority of the testing was negative. There are still tests available at Physicians One if people want it.

Treasurers Report – B. Bloom moved to approve the Treasurers Report (Att.). J. Albanesi seconded, motion unanimously approved.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46pm.

Respectfully submitted
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachments: Chair Report, Report from Human Services Director, Helping Hands Flyer and Treasurers Report

May 14, 2020

Good afternoon everyone,

First off I hope everyone is well and safe. NO one other than myself, our clerk Arlene, Dan Rosenthal and Natalie will be allowed access into the Municipal Center. All other members must call in to participate.

Here are the instructions for Monday's meeting: **THE CALL IN NUMBER IS 203-270-4249. The meeting will start at 3PM. You can call in a few minutes prior.**

Per FOI you have to own your comments, because it's by phone you have to identify yourself when speaking every single time. Any comments, motions, or anything you need to let anyone listening know who you are.

The capacity for incoming calls is around 24. From a clerking aspect, members need to be noted as present, present via teleconference (and identification rules apply to those calling in as well) or absent.

What can I say that's different from yesterday, the day before, etc. The good news is that Newtown continues to support each other. A new group was started called Newtown Helping Hands. They have partnered with a number of organizations. They will shop and deliver groceries for free (the recipient pays for their groceries). This town never ceases to amaze me. There's a need – it's filled almost immediately.

There was an article in VOICES regarding the Senior Center and the congregate lunches as well as information about senior shopping hours at local supermarkets. The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide services are currently suspended. The SC is also looking for a few folks who could sew masks. If you can help, or know someone who can help, call the SC. They will provide the material. There was also an article in VOICES regarding the Property Tax Program for qualifying seniors and disabled residents. The Legislative Council voted on an act that supported social distancing guidelines for the Property Tax Program. So those already enrolled in the program will automatically be re-enrolled for the next two years.

Besides the wonderful suggestions for virtual learning and classes that the SC staff puts out each week, don't forget to check out what CH Booth and the Newtown Community Center has to offer.

This morning the Senior Center offered a ZOOM, Coffee and Conversation. It was SO wonderful to see so many faces!

Thank you to Selectman Dan Rosenthal and Natalie Jackson and their staffs. I know how hard they are all working and want to make sure they know we appreciate them. Looking forward to the small steps in reopening some businesses next week.

Talk to you all Monday. Enjoy the beautiful weekend. Keep reaching out to your friends and neighbors.

Stay well and stay safe, Anna



Department of Human Services

Supporting a high quality of life for the Newtown community through services, programs and information that promote mental, physical and social well-being.

Commission on Aging Report: May 18, 2020

As we close in on two months of social distancing and staying home to stay safe, the priority of the Department of Human Services remains meeting the immediate needs of residents who are either financially impacted by the pandemic or have limited access to basic needs due to sheltering in place. Key efforts currently in include:

Newtown Helping Hands (NHH): This is the collaborative effort by many key organizations and individual volunteers to get food into the hands of those struggling and those who should continue to sequester, while supporting our local restaurant community.

- **The restaurant meal program** simultaneously supports local restaurants and Newtown families and individuals in need (referred by Newtown Human Services). Each resident/family receives a hot meal on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Some meals are donated by restaurants and some are sponsored with a "fee" per meal paid to the restaurant using funds raised by the NHH GoFund Me. Currently, 23 families have received over 200 meals on Wednesday and Saturdays, plus 17 families received a special Mother's Day brunch.
- **Shopping and Delivery Service** for Newtown seniors (age 60+) and others in high-risk groups who should not be shopping. Clients order 1-7 days in advance and pay for their groceries. Volunteers age 18-59 shop and deliver. There is no fee for the service. Katherine Simpson is overseeing the coordination of this program, with two other Lions volunteers. Over fifty volunteer shoppers stand ready to serve. However, despite considerable publicity, this service has been slow to gain users.

Senior Meal program: curbside lunches continue to be distributed at the senior center in partnership with CW Resources. The program is now at full capacity each week. Distribution has been taken on by DHS staff as CW Resources can no longer fill that role. In addition, several "special Friday lunches" have been offered through very generous donations by community partners, Whitsons Food Service, and local restaurants.

FAITH Food Pantry continues to rise to meet the food needs of residents affected by COVID 19, tripling their previous distribution. DHS continues to support the private entities' efforts in all way possible, including roles in organizing community drives to benefit the pantry and connecting the pantry with food distribution from the Salvation Army.

The Resource Guide for Residents Effectuated by COVID 19: the DHS continues to update this document regularly as circumstances evolve new information is received. You can always find the most recent version of the Guide on the Town website, COVID 19 page: [CLICK HERE](#).

Face coverings: the Senior Center continues to be a point of contact for seniors to request face coverings. To date, we have distributed over 150 face coverings to senior community members. A huge thank you to all of the incredible sewers out there who have made face coverings for us to get out to folks, and to the Town and the Blooms for supplies of surgical masks.

As unemployment numbers rose significantly over the last month, the DHS continues to stay abreast of federal, state, and local resources to assist those impacted. We also are continuing to look for ways to combat social isolation caused by this pandemic. Efforts have included a "special edition" newsletter, continued search for valuable and enjoyable resources and "adventures" to include in weekly Constant Contact blasts, increased opportunities for

virtual exercise/movement programs, and new virtual opportunities for gathering (including our first Zoom Coffee & Conversation). Neighbors are continuing to check-in on each other and other community networks are reaching out. Newtown has certainly risen to this occasion.

The DHS remains committed to safety and wellbeing of Newtown's residents and again, we urge anyone who is in need of support, or just wants to connect with a friendly voice on the other end of the line to call us--- we are here!

Be well,

Natalie

Natalie Jackson, LCSW

Director, Newtown Human Services

NEWTOWN HELPING HANDS

DIVIDED WE FIGHT THIS.
TOGETHER WE STAND.

We are Newtown.

♥ **Free Restaurant Meals** for Newtown

residents struggling to make ends meet.

Contact us about **free restaurant meals** to lift your spirits and ease you way. Call 203-270-4297, email

newtownhelpinghands@gmail.com, or text 203-885-4987

♥ **Free Shopping and Delivery Service** for

Seniors (60+) plus others at risk. Be safe; stay home. We will shop and deliver for you! Call 203-270-4297 or email

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9			DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	BALANCE
10			7/1/19	Beginning Balance				59,111.31
11								
12								
13			7/11/2019	Donation- Friends of Seniors T-4575				61,611.31
14			7/25/2019	Qtrly Distribution - Knotts Trust T-5765		2,500.00	507.68	62,118.99
15								
16			8/21/2019	July P-Card- Best Buy-Samsung TV(2)	(1,604.96)			60,514.03
17			8/21/2019	July P-Card-The Sign Shoppe- Senior Center Main Lobby sign	(600.00)			59,914.03
18			8/21/2019	July P-Card- Belnick Retail- Senior Center chairs	(2,201.07)			57,712.96
19			8/30/2019	Ck #37514- Kinga Walsh- Reim for food for Ribbon Cutting	(512.00) *			57,200.96
20								
21			9/26/2019	Ck #37808- Cris Carvalho Fadus- reim for Ping Pong Table	(175.00)			57,025.96
22								
23			10/4/2019	Reclass to Community Center for AV equipment purchased	(10,000.00)			47,025.96
24			10/21/2019	Qtrly Distribution- Knotts Trust T-23487			507.68	47,533.64
25								
26			11/7/2019	Ck#38449- Diversified Printing Solutions- Signs for Bazaar	(140.00)			47,393.64
27			11/7/2019	Ck #38493- Mahard's Piano Services- Tuning of Piano	(295.00)			47,098.64
28			11/7/2019	Ck #38526- Ross M Gentile's Diversified- Moving Piano to CC	(500.00)			46,598.64
29			11/15/2019	Bazaar collections- T-27646		3,246.32		49,844.96
30			11/21/2019	Ck #38771- WB Mason- New Furniture	(14,885.37)			34,959.59
31			11/30/2019	Oct P-Card- Amazon-Tables for Cards	(350.92)			34,608.67
32			11/30/2019	Oct P-Card- Amazon- Tables	(554.47)			34,054.20
33			11/30/2019	Oct P-Card- Amazon- Craft cutting workstations	(176.53)			33,877.67
34								
35								
36			12/13/2019	Bazaar Funds - T-33854		166.00		34,043.67
37			12/17/2019	Donations- Arch Deacon Donation & Misc Donation- T-33909		3,500.00		37,543.67
38			12/20/2019	Donation for Holiday Party - T-34489		243.62		37,787.29
39			12/26/2019	Ck #39178- Restaurant Equipement- Freezer	(1,814.95)			35,972.34
40			12/31/2019	Nov P-Card- Amazon- umbrella stand	(58.48)			35,913.86
41			12/31/2019	Nov P-Card- Amazon- Rolling chairs for sewing area	(190.37)			35,723.49
42			12/31/2019	Nov P-Card- Amazon- Easel for classes	(73.38)			35,650.11
43			12/31/2019	Nov P-Card- Amazon- Bulletin Board	(114.82)			35,535.29
44			12/31/2019	Nov P-Card- Amazon- Shuffleboard Set	(135.73)			35,399.56
45								
46			1/23/2020	Dec P-Card- Amazon- TV Stand	(161.64)			35,237.92
47			1/23/2020	Selling of Crafts-Donation- 220-50		197.00		35,434.92
48			1/24/2020	Qtrly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-168			637.00	36,071.92
49								
50			2/27/2020	Ck #39869- 63 Ct Conf-COA Booklets	(2,000.00)			34,071.92
51								
52			3/12/2020	Ck #40004- William Highes- Reim for folding Tables	(250.00)			33,821.92
53			3/16/2020	Donation from COA Member 220-60		500.00		34,321.92
54			3/16/2020	Bazaar Donation 220-61		50.00		34,371.92
55								
56			4/14/2020	Feb P-Card- My Senior Center-Annual Fee and Fobs	(1,981.40)			32,390.52
57			4/14/2020	Feb P-Card- Halas Farm Market- Landscaping	(879.82)			31,510.70

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
58			4/22/2020	Qrtly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-258			637.00	32,147.70
59								
60			5/4/2020	March P-Card- Ikea-Benches for fitness area	(196.72)			31,950.98
61			5/4/2020	March P-Card- Amazon-Cork/white board for classroom	(141.41) *			31,809.57
62								
63								
64								
65								
66				Less approved items to be booked:				
67								
68				Christmas Party tickets	(175.00)			
69				Step stools	(150.00)			
70				Pool table	(550.00)			
71				Clocks	(50.00)			
72					(925.00)			30,884.57