

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING  
Special Meeting  
Monday, September 21, 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: Joanne Albanesi, Larry Passaro, Anne Rothstein, Cris Carvalho Fadus, Clare Thuene, John Boccuzzi, Curt Symes, Barbara Bloom

**Absent:** Bob Edwards, Ruby Ryles, LeReine Frampton

**Also Present:** Kaki Taylor from the CH Booth Library via teleconference, Tim Baily from Church Hill Village, Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, and First Selectman Dan Rosenthal

**Public Comment** – K. Taylor from the CH Booth Library reported that you can go to the library by appointment but as of October 1, there will be a period of time in both the morning and afternoon when they will be open. Curbside pickup continues, the patio library will continue as weather permits and they are doing kids programs outside.

**Introduction-Tim Bailey from Church Hill Village** – A. Wiedemann introduced Tim Bailey from Church Hill Village. T. Bailey provided fliers for the Senior Center and Community Center. Church Hill Village is open to all seniors who need to get occupational or physical therapy as well as salon services. They are having open house this weekend Friday, Saturday and Sunday by appointment only. You can follow them on Facebook where they have a lot of useful resources for seniors.

**Minutes** – J. Albanesi moved to approve the minutes from the 8/17/20 meeting. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

## REPORTS

**Chair Report (Attachment A)** – A. Wiedemann explained that R. Ryles will be working on a new brochure. Doing it online might be better because things are changing and can be updated. They will put together a subcommittee. She also reported that next month they can meet in person if they choose but a call in will still be an option.

**Director of Human Services update (Attachment B)** – N. Jackson reported that they are anticipating opening the doors to the Senior Center October 1 following very strict guidelines. Indoor programs will fully complement what they are doing on-line and outdoors. At this point they can not start up the congregate lunch program and can't share equipment. The pool table can be opened but only to two people at a time and masks must be worn. The crafters have been meeting outside the Senior Center and bring all the things they are working on. They are going to do pop up sales at the Community Center.

*First Selectman update – None*

Treasurers Report (Attachment C)– J. Albanesi moved to file the financials for audit. C. Thuene seconded, all in favor.

*Subcommittee Reports –* L. Passaro reported that they had their first Senior Shopping Guide subcommittee meeting to strategize how they are going to move forward. They discussed the best ways to reach out to businesses and decided by telephone was the most ideal. They also discussed how and what they will do with information when they get it. It may be a last page in the monthly newsletter, or have it on-line so it is easy to maintain and update. C. Preszler from EDC provided them a link which contained 122 categories of businesses in town. When they meet next Tuesday they will come up with a procedure for calling. The Bee did an article this week about it on page 6 and The Voices will publish something this Wednesday. They will also cross reference the list provided from EDC with the list from the Chamber of Commerce.

J. Albanesi reported that the Volunteer Policy/Senior Center Handbook subcommittee met this past Friday and reviewed the rules of the senior center. They have the handbooks from other towns for reference as well. Their next meeting is September 29.

J. Boccuzzi reported that there will be a Shred It day on October 17, 2020 at the Newtown Savings Bank Location at Plaza South, 274 S. Main Street, Newtown. The cost is \$5 per box for seniors and \$10 per box for everyone else.

Having no further business, C. Symes moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:43pm. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted  
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachments: Chair Report, Report from Human Services Director, and Treasurers Report

# Attachment A

COA Chair Report, Monday, September 21, 2020

This is the month where we nominate three members for the Nominating Committee. Please give some thought to being on this important committee. Members are appointed in October, they present a slate in November, we vote in December and they are official as of January 7, 2021.

I need to reach out to the members regarding the COA brochure. Ruby had done an outstanding job when we had it printed a few years back. It's time to update, but I'd like to discuss not printing it and only having it be online?

I have some pamphlets that may be of interest to members or someone you may know. The LIONS offer Low Vision Centers. I'm happy to share the information on the pamphlet to anyone who needs it. I also have pamphlets from the Veteran's: one is entitled PAYING FOR SENIOR CARE and the other is entitled VETERAN'S FINANCIAL, INC. Again, happy to share this information if you need it or know someone who could benefit from it.

Churchill Village has a couple of upcoming programs:

- Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, Senior Safety in the Home presented by Officer MaryHelen McCarty of the Newtown Police Department
- Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, Nature Harvest Connection: What the Earth Can Provide for Us presented by Bill Donaldson, Sticks and Stones Farm
- Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, Getting Through the Holidays" Stress, Grief and Loss presented by Mary DeLorenzo TRD, MS, LPC
- Churchill Village is opening it's in house services to seniors in our area. They have outpatient occupational therapy and salon services that can be scheduled.
- Open House Weekend – Friday, September 25-Sunday, September 27 from 2-4:00pm. Space is limited. RSVO at 203-745-0968

A big thank you to Churchill Village – Barbara Bloom and I attended their Margaritas and Mantra's event Wednesday evening. The food, as always, was out of this world! We had delicious food, met some other folks who work with Seniors and left with a wonderful painting with our Mantra's printed on them.

If anyone has any suggestions towards something that would celebrate Bob Sharpe for the Senior Center, please send me your thoughts. I have written to his son, but haven't heard anything yet.

The Senior Shopping Guide subcommittee met on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Larry Passaro is the chair of that subcommittee and will give a brief report at our meeting on Monday.

The Senior Center Volunteer Policy/Senior Center Handbook subcommittee met on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. JoAnne Albanesi is the chair of that subcommittee and will give a brief report at our meeting on Monday as well.

I'm so excited and looking forward to the reopening of the Senior Center on October 1<sup>st</sup>. I look forward to hearing what's in store from our Director of Human Services, Natalie Jackson.

I'm hoping that perhaps next month we can resume meeting in person. No one should feel pressured to attend unless they would be comfortable (and we get the green light to do so). Phoning in will remain an option. Please continue to reach out to neighbors and check on them.

Stay well and stay safe, Anna



# Attachment B

## 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: September 21, 2020

Based on guidance from the State of Connecticut regarding the reopening of Senior Centers, weighed with information specific to our community, the Office of the First Selectman, the Health District, and the Department of Human Services has decided to reopen our building on October 1<sup>st</sup>. A survey was sent to Senior Center members asking for feedback on plans to return, programming, and safety. We have received 95 responses to date. Please see the attached graphs for a sample of the questions asked and member responses.

As of 10/1 programs will be offered in a limited capacity indoors, while continuing our outdoor and virtual programming menu. With this trifecta of program options we hope that there will be something for everyone, based on personal choice and comfort levels. The safety of our members and team remains our utmost priority. If a member does not feel ready to participate in person, they should feel free to abstain and we hope they will enjoy our virtual programs in the interim. We will welcome our members when they are personally ready!

A full calendar of events and detailed building reopening plan will be distributed prior to October 1. As information and guidelines continue to evolve plans will shift as needed as we respond. We appreciate the community's patience and cooperation and we look forward to partnering with our members as move through our phased building reopening. Our membership drive for 20/21 continues. Since July 1 we have had 336 individuals renew their membership (313 residents and 23 non-residents).

The Department of Human Services remains committed to 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. Resources to assist with energy, housing stabilization, and food security have been identified and residents are being connected as needed. Key efforts that continue include:

- **Senior meal program** in partnership with CW Resources
- **Renter's Rebate applications** (program for senior renters, remains open until 10/1, 72 completed to date)
- **Energy Assistance** (open as of 8/31, 18 applications completed to date)
- **Home repair for seniors** in partnership with FONS Chore Shores & Housatonic Habitat's Brushed with Kindness program
- **Newtown Helping Hands Shopping and Delivery Service** for Newtown seniors (age 60+) and others in high-risk groups (currently 7 residents are receiving service via 8 active volunteers)

Discussions with charitable organizations and community partners have also begun regarding programs for the upcoming holiday season. Residents can contact DHS at 203-270-4330 to discuss any financial aid opportunities and applications.

**In October the Senior Center will be launching outdoor events with guest speakers using some exciting new technology that is in route to Newtown. Stay tuned!**

Stay well,

*Natalie*

Natalie Jackson, LCSW  
Director, Newtown Human Services



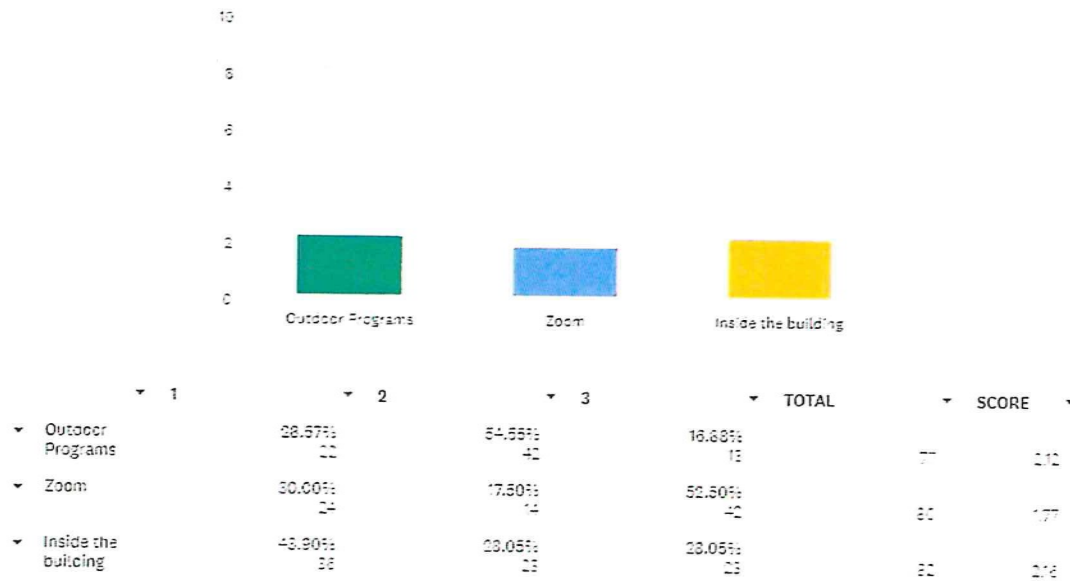
## Newtown Senior Center Building Reopening Survey

Launched: 8/28/2020

### Sample of Questions & Responses

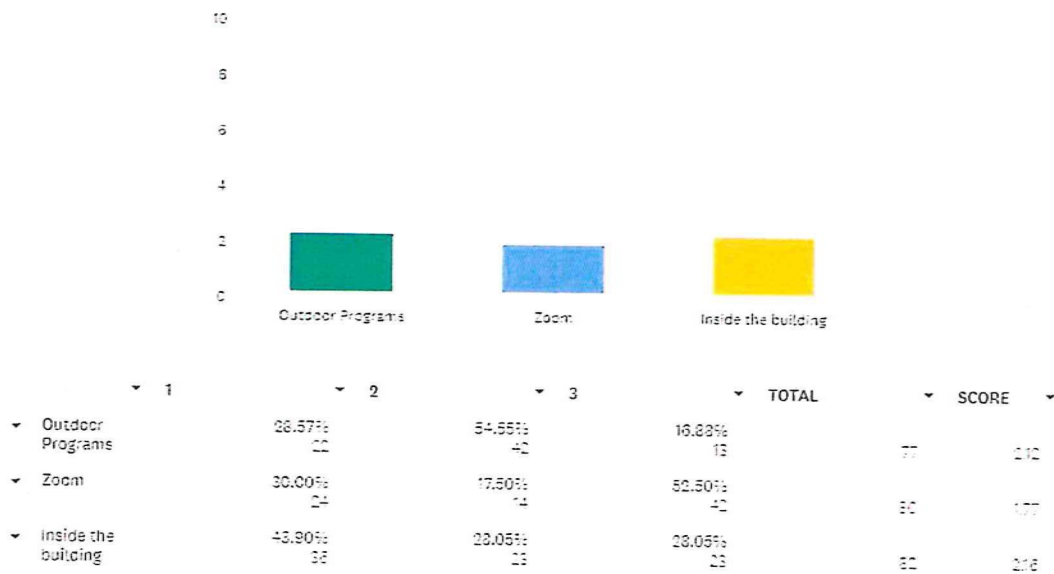
How are you most comfortable participating in activities through the Newtown Senior Center? List in order (1st, 2nd, 3rd).

Answered: 85 Skipped: 10



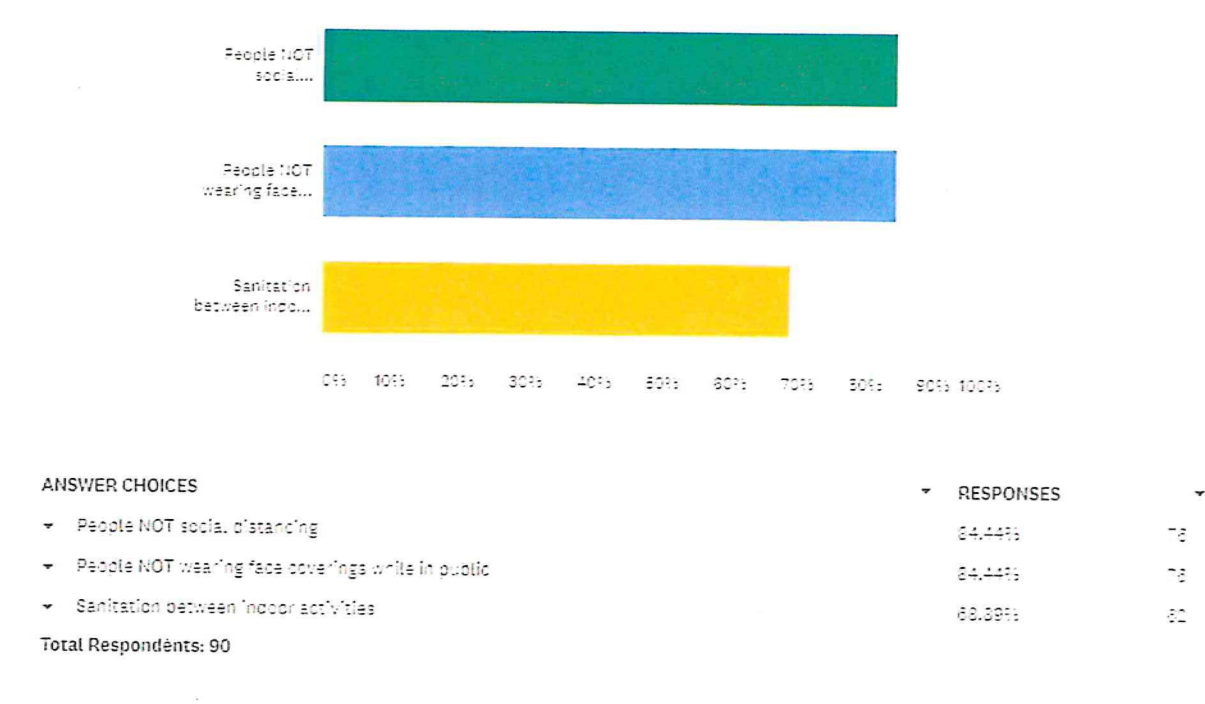
How are you most comfortable participating in activities through the Newtown Senior Center? List in order (1st, 2nd, 3rd).

Answered: 85 Skipped: 10



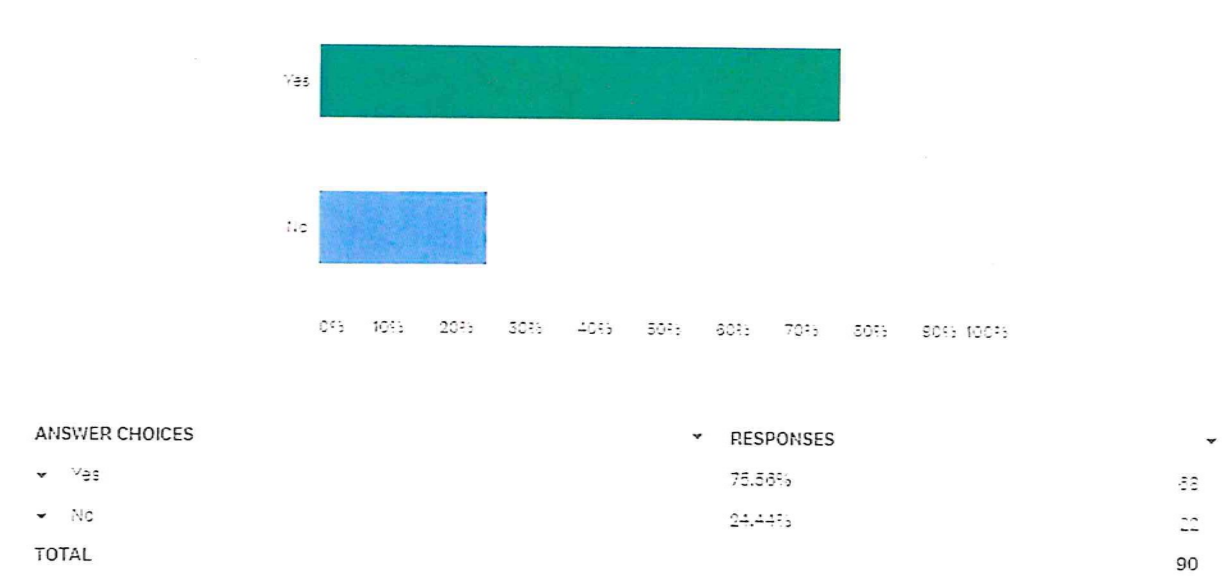
What safety concerns do you have about returning? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 90 Skipped: 5



Since our building closed, have our virtual programs, curbside lunches, robo calls, and Special Newsletters & email blasts been helpful to you?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 5



# Attachment C

## COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	BALANCE
7/1/20	Beginning Balance				31,634.57
7/22/2020	Qrtly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-16			637.00	32,271.57
9/10/2020	Ck #42023- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for Sr. Center Lunch 8/14/20	(206.23)			32,065.34
	Less approved items to be booked:				
	Pool table	(550.00)			
	Sr lunch balance	(513.77)			
	Clocks	(50.00)			
					(1,113.77)
					<u>\$ 30,951.57</u>