

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
Special Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2020
Called to order at 4:00pm

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, Joanne Albanesi, Claire Theune, Curty Symes, Barbara Bloom the following members were present via teleconference:, Larry Passaro, Anne Rothstein, John Boccuzzi, Ruby Ryles

Absent: Bob Edwards, LeReine Frampton, Cris Carvalho Fadus,

Also Present: Kaki Taylor from the CH Booth Library, Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Judy Larson

Public Comment – T. Taylor from the CH Booth Library reported that the library has more open hours and you don't need appointment. Friends of the Library are accepting books and Saturday and Wednesday mornings.

Minutes – J. Albanesi moved to approve the minutes of the 9/21/20 meeting, C. Symes seconded, all in favor.

REPORTS

Chair Report (Attachment A) – A. Wiedemann reported that the flier for the suicide prevention events are ready. She will send them out to members so they can register and also pass it on to others that may be interested. Regarding food insecurity, she would like to reach out to grocery stores about what they do with their leftovers, maybe they can be used to help the food insecure.

Director of Human Services update (Attachment B)– N. Jackson reviewed her report. The doors reopened on October 1st. October 5th they offered indoor programing. They have upped their game on lunch and learns. The first one was great; the second there was a little technical issue. The crafters were so busy during quarantine; they have started doing popup boutiques at the community center which have been success. They are planning on doing more. C. Symes questioned if providing some turkey dinners for people that are shut in for Thanksgiving could be an option. N. Jackson will look at options.

First Selectman update – D. Rosenthal reported that from a Covid stand point, the town continues to fare well but there is a lot of contact tracing. There will be two virtual Suicide Prevention programs. Many seniors have not been able to travel to or have family travel to them. It is important to look for changes in someone's behavior; it is ok to ask if someone is alright.

Treasurers Report (Attachment C) – There is no activity for disbursements.

Nominating Committee – presentation of slate – Claire Theune – C. Theune presented the proposed slate of office nominees (Attachment D). A. Wiedemann asked if there were any members interested in having their name on the slate, no one commented. This will be held to a vote at the November meeting.

Subcommittee Reports – L. Passaro reviewed the minutes of the Senior Shopping Guide Subcommittee (Attachment E). The list will go out weekly in the constant contact, the newsletter and on the website.

J. Albanesi reviewed the subcommittee minutes (Attachment F).

Puzzle table – They are still looking for the table and will vote on the expenditure next month.

Pool table update – The Public Works went to look at the table which would have to be taken apart and brought upstairs. There was concern about damaging the home and the table. A moving company would add about \$1000 to the cost of the table where a new table would be about \$800. It was decided to purchase a new table and have it installed. It is anticipated that at the next meeting they will be able to present a few choices for the commission to vote on.

Approve funds for Totes for Suicide Presentation – There are going to be 2 zoom presentations one on 11/5/20 and the other at 11/19/20 at 6:30pm. They are purchasing 200 totes that will have a saying printed on them which will be distributed. There is an anonymous donor that will cover the costs but the invoice will need to be paid out of the gift fund and then the donation will replenish it. C. Symes moved to pay DDS Diversified up to \$450 to pay for the totes and printing for the suicide prevention initiative. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

A Wiedemann reminded members that now through February, the meetings will be at 4pm.

Having no further business, L. Passaro moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:16pm. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachments: Chair Report, Report from Human Services Director, Treasurers Report, Slate of Office Nominees, Senior Shopping Guide and Volunteer Policy/Senior Center handbook subcommittee minues.

A

COA Chair Report, Monday, October 19, 2020

Just a reminder, we voted last year to move the meetings to 4pm in the winter months. We will have our meeting this month at 4:00 as well. We are holding Monday's meeting in person. But there is absolutely no pressure to attend. We will still have phone in available – the number to call in is 203-270-4249. If all goes well, we can plan on attending next month's meeting at the Senior Center.

The crafters have had a Pop Up sale at the Community Center. These ladies have been hard at work all the months we were shut down. They plan on having sales every Saturday from 8-12. Please stop by to see their work. They never cease to amaze me!

Update on the pool table – unfortunately, the highway department will not be able to pick up the pool table. Rightfully so, they are worried about disassembling and carrying it up from the basement without scratching the homeowners walls or damaging the pool table rendering it unusable. So we began calling places that could move it. The cheapest place was \$500! The table, when it was new was \$799. We were going to pay \$500 for the used table. Doesn't make sense to pay that fee to transport it. Most pool table places said they'd move it, but WE HAD TO CRATE IT!!! First of all, we don't even know where to get a crate and secondly, I told them, "so we crate it, you move it 2 miles and we get to pay you???" Doesn't make sense. We are still technically closed, but I propose looking into purchasing a new one and having it delivered and set up. We can discuss this further on Monday.

The totes are something that we ordered to fill with information from the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. We will leave those totes at the Senior Center, Community Center, Municipal Center, CH Booth Library and Edmond Town Hall. The donated is earmarked for the totes. The money will be deposited in the COA Gift Fund and paid to the printer.

Bob Sharpe's son suggested a table for puzzles. I've researched online and found several different types. I'd like you to search as well and if you see anything that stands out, please share the link with me and we can discuss on Monday.

I received a packet from Ridgefield VNA. They have merged Bethel and New Milford. I will have the information on the clipboard.

Lastly, there is a class being offered by Professor Nicholas R. Nicholson Jr. regarding Social Isolation. There is a class Monday, 10/19 from 1-4 and a practice session offered 10/22 also from 1-4. If you are interested send an email to nicholas.nicholsonjr@gmail.com

Happy weekend, Anna



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: October 19, 2020

On October 1st the doors of our Senior Center reopened, following guidance from the State of Connecticut weighed with information specific to our community. Programs are now offered in a limited capacity indoors, while we continue our outdoor and virtual programming menu. With the diversity of program options we hope that there is something for everyone, based on personal choice and comfort levels. Reports generated from My Senior Center are attached, highlighting the participation thus far in in-person programs, including our cutting edge *Drive-In Lunch & Leams*.

Our membership drive for 20/21 continues. Memberships continue to come in at a steady pace. While the doors to the building were closed from mid-March to October, staff continued to be present each day reaching out to our seniors in the community, being a resource and point of information, and offering programming virtually and outdoors. Special services and programs we are providing also include: hosting the Bethel VNA Senior Flu Shot Clinic on October 2nd and an upcoming Newtown day with CHOICES counselors to assist residents with questions about Medicare Open Enrollment.

The Department of Human Services is committed to meeting the immediate needs of residents. Resources to assist with energy, housing stabilization, and food security have been identified. Residents who are directly impacted by the pandemic and those facing challenges not related to COVID 19 are being connected as appropriate. Residents can contact DHS at 203-270-4330 to discuss any financial aid opportunities and applications.

Key efforts that continue include:

- **Food resources** including the senior meal program in partnership with CW Resources and the distribution of over 200 food boxes through the Salvation Army
- **Holidays 2020** discussions with charitable organizations and community partners are in process regarding programs for the upcoming holiday season. Thanksgiving and holiday basket programs will continue.
- **Energy Assistance** this program opened 8/31. Approximately 60 applications have been completed to date. Community Action is taking a greater lead role this year which is decreasing the number of applications directly completed in Newtown.
- **Renter's Rebate applications** this program for senior renters, closed 10/1 with approximately 80 applications completed.
- **Home repair for seniors** in partnership with FONS Chore Shores & Housatonic Habitat's Brushed with Kindness program DHS is helping identify senior residents in need of home repair using financial support from Habitat and FONS.
- **Newtown Helping Hands Shopping and Delivery Service** for Newtown seniors (age 60+) and others in high-risk groups (currently 7 residents continue to receive service via 8 active volunteers).

As the weather turns and our ability to enjoy time with family and friends outdoors changes it will be as important as ever to keep those who may be isolated and in need of supports on our radar. If you know of anyone in need please contact Human Services so we can be in touch.

Finally, I hope everyone has the chance to come out to one of the upcoming *Senior Center Popup Boutiques* hosted at the Newtown Community Center. What a great way to support the Newtown Senior Center when purchasing a gift or something special for yourself, handmade by our amazing crafting crew.

Stay well,

Natalie

Natalie Jackson, LCSW
Director, Newtown Human Services

People that were active between 10/05/2020 and 10/19/2020
Filters:

Age:

Between 55 and 99

Age Range	Count	Percent
Ages 55-59	17	1.6%
Ages 60-64	77	7.4%
Ages 65-69	195	18.8%
Ages 70-74	221	21.4%
Ages 75-79	199	19.2%
Ages 80-84	150	14.5%
Ages Below 55	9	0.9%
Ages Over 85	166	16.0%
Unknown	2	0.2%
Totals	1036	100%

Total 20/21 New Memberships: 352

**** 327 Residents, 25 Non-resident**

Event Occurrences from 10/05/2020 to 10/19/2020

Category	Event	# of Event Hours Schedule Unduplicated		
F - Class/Workshop	Art Class	2	4	7
	Spanish	2	2	1
	Total	4	6	8
F - Health/Fitness	Chair Pilates	2	2	3
	Chair Yoga	2	2	5
	Floor Yoga	2	2	5
	Morning Meditation	2	2	5
	Tai Chi	3	3	8
	Total	11	11	19
F - Nutrition	Curbside Lunch Pick-Up	4	0	14
	Total	4	0	14
F - Rec./Entertain	Billiards	6	6	3
	Drive in Lunch and Learn	2	4	47
	Total	8	10	50
F - Social Activity/Event	Crafts	5	10	7
	No Lunch Drive in Lunch and	2	4	6
	Ping Pong	2	4	0
	Quilting/Sewing	1	1	0
	Total	10	19	13
F - Socializing	Socializing & Just Visiting	7	63	0
	Total	7	63	0
P - Social Activity/Event	Reserve the Patio	5	5	0
	Total	5	5	0
Grand Totals		49	114	141

Event Statistics from 10/05/2020 to 10/16/2020**Filters:**

Age: Between 55 and 99
Site(s): All
City:

Category	Duplicate	Unduplicated	Hours
F - Class/Workshop	8	8	15
F - Health/Fitness	41	23	41
F - Nutrition	23	13	11.5
F - Rec./Entertain	56	40	78
F - Social Activity/Event	23	15	42
P - Social Activity/Event	2	2	2
Total Event Signins	153	83	189.5

C

COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	BALANCE
Beginning Balance				31,634.57
Qrtly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-16			637.00	32,271.57
Ck #42023- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for Sr. Center Lunch 8/14/20	(206.23)			32,065.34
Qrtly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-82			781.30	32,846.64
ams to be booked:	(550.00)			
	(513.77)			
	(50.00)			
				(1,113.77)
				<u>\$ 31,732.87</u>

D

**Proposed* Slate of Office Nominees
for the Next Commission on Aging**

Anna WiedemannChairman

Anne RothsteinVice Chairman

Larry PassaroTreasurer

****Interest was expressed by these candidates via email on September 30, 2020.***

**Prepared by Claire Theune, LeReine Frampton, and Bob Edwards, COA
Nominating Committee.**

October 19, 2020

E

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
SENIOR SHOPPING GUIDE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

Present: Larry Passaro (Chair), Claire Theune, Natalie Jackson (Director of Human Services), Anna Wiedemann

Meeting was called to order at 11:00am

Minutes of September 29, 2020 approved.

- Discussed posters that will be put in storefront windows.
- Mr. Passaro presented a script which will be modified for making calls to businesses to see who would like to be included and can offer discounts.
- Need to solicit volunteers to make calls

Meeting adjourned 11:30am

Respectfully submitted, Anna Wiedemann



We are . . .

Senior

Friendly 

A large, thick, yellow curved arrow that starts under the word 'Friendly' and points upwards and to the right, ending under the heart icon.

-----*The Newtown Commission on Aging*

F

**NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
VOLUNTEER POLICY/SENIOR CENTER HANDBOOK
SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

Present: JoAnne Albanesi (Chair), Claire Theune, Natalie Jackson (Director of Human Services), Anna Wiedemann

Meeting was called to order at 12:00am

Minutes of September 29, 2020 approved.

- Various applications for volunteering are being looked at from other centers including a volunteer form for students
- Fingerprinting is costly. We can ask the PD if they will do a name check
- Discussed the various volunteer committees: Crafts, Bazaar, Holiday Get Together, Sunshine, Kitchen Help, Desk Coverage to name a few suggestions

Meeting adjourned 12.40pm

Respectfully submitted, Anna Wiedemann