

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2021
Called to order at 3:02pm

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

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

Present Via Teleconference: Barbara Bloom, Anna Wiedemann, Larry Passaro(3:20pm), Ruby Ryles, Cris Carvalho Fadus, Joanne Albanesi

Absent: Claire Theune, Curt Symes, Bob Edwards, LeReine Frampton, Anne Rothstein

Also Present Via Teleconference: Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, Kaki Taylor from C.H. Booth Library, Judi Larson, Ned Simpson, Katherine Simpson Lions

Public Comment – Katherine Simposn Lions is part of a group that delivers groceries to seniors. They only have 8 clients and 4 of them have had accidents in their home that caused them to go to the hospital. Suggested bringing back Are You Ok system or something like that.

K. Taylor from C.H. Booth Library reported that they are continuing with the patio pick up and will be extending their hours in February. Friends of the Library are collecting books on Wednesdays and Saturday. They have launched Words on Wheels. People call and let them know what you want and they will deliver it to their house. They are also working on access to the driveway and parking for those with ability issues.

B. Bloom moved to add to the agenda discussion and possible action for the puzzle table. J. Albanesi seconded, all in favor.

Minutes – J. Albanesi moved to approve the minutes from the 12/21/20 meeting. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

REPORTS

Chair Report – Attachment A

Vice Chair, Grant – None

Director of Human Services update– N. Jackson reviewed her report (Attachment B).

First Selectman update – None

Treasurers Report– L. Passaro reviewed the treasurer's report (Attachment C). He also thanked Mary Hellen McCarthy who delivered cookies to the shut-ins during the holidays. J. Albanesi moved to approve the treasurer's reports. C. Carvalho Fadus seconded, all in favor.

Subcommittee updates

Volunteer Policy/Senior Center Handbook – J. Albanese reported that they are checking with police department to see if they can do a name check and what would that cost. They are also setting up various volunteer opportunities. The Sunshine Group will be sending out birthday and thinking of you cards.

Senior Shopping Guide – L. Passaro reported that they went through the list of business categories and identified those specifically not applicable to seniors. He is going to get a list of people who volunteered outside of those on the committee and will break up the categories and hopefully they can start making calls in early February.

Puzzle Table – Someone was going to build it but then they found exactly what they are looking for on-line. The person that was going to make it couldn't make it that cheap. B. Bloomed moved to purchase puzzle table up to the amount of \$1600, L. Passaro seconded, all in favor.

Member comments - None

Having no further business, L. Passaro moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:34pm. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted
Arlene Miles, Clerk

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

Attachment A

January 21, 2020

Commission on Aging Chair Report

Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope as I write this, we are seeing things beginning to turn around. I, like everyone else, am looking forward to a little more freedom and life going to back to normal.

After hearing Ned Simpson speak during public participation at our last meeting, I also went to see Doug Lord, the Director of the CH Booth Library. I sent a letter advocating for the parking situation to be addressed sooner rather than later for our mobility challenged neighbors. I'm happy to report that at this past Wednesday's Legislative Council meeting, the motion was passed by the LC!

Please continue to check in on friends and neighbors. Bad weather is approaching this weekend – colder than normal temps and snow. Although, don't hate me, I am looking forward to some snow so the grandkids can finally have some fun outdoors. They finally got sleds and there hasn't been a snowflake in sight!

We had two subcommittees meet this week – Volunteer Policy/Senior Center Handbook (Chair Ms. JoAnne Albanesi) and Senior Shopping Guide (Chair Mr. Larry Passero). I'm attaching the minutes to those meetings. I will let both Chairs report at our meeting on Monday.

Sadly, there is not much new to report. Keep an eye out for information regarding the vaccine. Those 75 and over are beginning to get the vaccine. Hopefully, very soon, the next group, those 65-75 will be able to sign up for the vaccine. The Health Department has the link on their website for VAMS. Once you click on the link you can then input your information and are able to schedule an appointment. Even though there is information posted in a variety of places as well as the newspaper, I'm still finding people who are unaware. Share the information with your friends and neighbors. Natalie will talk about the Clinic that will be taking place at the Senior Center for vaccines. By the way, the VA also has the vaccine. So if you know someone 75 and over who was a Veteran, encourage them to reach out to the VA. The number to call is 1-203-932-5711. If you know anyone who needs help with any of this, feel free to have them call me. I have gone to a number of homes (masked!) to help people sign up.

Stay well, 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: January 25, 2021

In preparation for the COVID 19 vaccine coming to Newtown, Human Services is working with the Health District to become the clinic site for our senior residents. We are excited and eager to begin clinics at the Senior Center, beginning with our eldest residents working our way down to residents 75 years of age, as allowed in this 1b distribution phase. At this time all in-house programs have been suspended to allow for clinics to begin. All Health & Wellness classes are continuing via Zoom and the Friday *Drive In Lunch & Learns* will also continue. The Senior Center team has been working hard to assist residents in the registration process, answer questions, and offer support as the vaccine becomes available.

I also thrilled to report we have begun a partnership with Whitsons Culinary Group for our curbside lunch program. When our meal provider, CW Resources informed us that the program was being suspended due to lack of funding we approached the school district's provider, Whitsons. They jumped right in and worked with us to create this new program. The cost of the meal is \$6.00. We will subsidize \$3.00 of the cost through June, using funds that are not being used to off-set the previous grant. The feedback thus far has been very positive and the staff at Whitsons have been a pleasure to work with.

The Department of Aging and Disability Services, State Unit on Aging put out a grant opportunity to CT Senior Centers through CARES Act funds. We have applied to receive \$2,500 toward reimbursement of materials purchased in response to COVID 19. I look forward to reporting out with an update on this opportunity next month.

As promised in last months' report, I'd like to provide an update on seniors served through the Holiday Gift basket program with The Newtown Fund. Gifts were delivered to 97 households. This was an increase of 35 households from last year's 62. The 97 households included 295 recipients, 44 were 62 and above, 125 adults between the ages of 18 and 61, and a total of 96 children.

The Human Services team continues work to meet the needs of all residents, utilizing resources to assist with energy, housing stabilization, mental health referrals, and food security. Residents can contact DHS at 203-270-4330 to discuss any financial aid opportunities and applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie

Natalie Jackson, LCSW
Director, Newtown Human Services

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 | Qtrly 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 |
| 10/7/2020 | Mandatory Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-82 | | | 781.30 | 32,846.64 |
| 10/20/2020 | Qtrly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-95 | | | 637.00 | 33,483.64 |
| 10/31/2020 | Bazaar-Donations 220-09 | | 305.00 | | 33,788.64 |
| 10/31/2020 | Tote Bags- Archdeacon 220-09 | | 434.14 | | 34,222.78 |
| 11/23/2020 | Bazaar-Donations- 220-11 | | 447.00 | | 34,669.78 |
| 12/4/2020 | Ck #42817- Diversified Printing Solution- Tote Bags | (434.41) | | | 34,235.37 |
| 12/14/2020 | Donations- Bazaar- 220-14 | | 700.00 | | 34,935.37 |
| 12/14/2020 | Donations- Bazaar- 220-15 | | 284.00 | | 35,219.37 |
| 12/23/2020 | Ck #43288- Anna Wiedemann- Holiday cookies | (290.52) | | | 34,928.85 |
| 12/24/2020 | Donation- Arch Deacon Family Foundation -220-16 | | 5,000.00 | | 39,928.85 |
| 12/24/2020 | Donation Bazaar- 220-17 | | 541.50 | | 40,470.35 |
| Less approved items to be booked: | | | | | (3,550.00) |
| Pool table | | | | | (223.25) |
| Sr lunch balance | | | | | (50.00) |
| Clocks | | | | | |
| | | | | | <u>\$ 36,647.10</u> |