

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
Regular Meeting – held via Zoom
Monday, April 19, 2021
Called to order at 3:00pm

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

Present Via Teleconference: Barbara Bloom, Larry Passaro, Ruby Ryles, Cris Carvalho Fadus, Joanne Albanesi, Lia Levitt, Claire Theune, Curt Symes, LeReine Frampton, Anne Rothstein

Absent: Anna Widemann,

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

Public Comment – K. Taylor introduced Jennifer Nash, the new Assistant Director of the CH Booth Library. There were technical issues so J. Nash was unable to speak.

Minutes – J. Albanesi moved to approve the minutes of the 3/15/21 meeting. C. Theune seconded, all in favor.

REPORTS

Chair Report (Attachment A)– C. Theune and other members of the Commission shared their fond memories of Margaret Imbro, who had been a COA member.

Vice Chair, Grant – None

Director of Human Services update (Attachment B) – N. Jackson reviewed her report. The big news is that the center will be opening back up on May 3, 2021. They will be able to increase the numbers in programming and may be able to do some additional things as well as bring back programs that they didn't have prior to the pandemic like cards and puzzles. The pool table will be here on April 29. For now they will have two pool tables and they will be able to have two groups in there at a time. The current number of members is 452, of that 37 are from out of town. When they open, members will need to be 6 feet apart even if they are fully vaccinated and masks will be required, that is state mandated. They still can't do indoor lunches, but will continue the outdoor lunch and learns which are scheduled a few months out.

First Selectman update – None

Treasurers Report (Attachment C) –The crafters collected another \$603 this month. There was also an anonymous donation in the amount of \$700 to be used for table wear such as forks and knives.

B. Bloom moved to approve the treasurers report, C. Theune seconded, all in favor.

Livable Community-Transportation Needs for Seniors – C. Symes reviewed his presentation (Attachment D). N. Jackson expressed that she very interested in doing a survey. Her concern is not having a clear understanding of the needs and to be able to get some appropriate solutions in place. It was discussed creating a group formed, 2 from COA, 2 from FONS and 1 from the Senior Center to

begin working on this. L. Frampton expressed concern about creating a group before they have researched if creating the group is within their purview. L. Passaro moved to table discussion about forming a group until the next meeting. L. Frampton seconded, motion passes (8 Yes) (1 No, Bloom) and (1 Abstain, Symes).

Member comments – None

Having no further business, B. Bloom moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:44pm. L. Passaro seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachments: Chair Report, Report from Human Services Director, Treasurers Report, Presentation on Newtown Seniors Transportation Needs Study

Attachment A

COA Chair Report April 19, 2021

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE FOR THIS MONTH – WE WILL BEGIN AT 3:00 PM.

First of all, I want to thank Bob Edwards who is stepping off COA. He was with us for almost 2 years. I appreciate all you've done for us. He did tell me that we can call on him when we need him, and I plan on doing just that!

I did speak to Bob Tait regarding the \$700 anonymous donation for new plates, silverware, cups, etc. for the kitchen. We do not need to make a motion, but we need to simply recognize that a donation in the amount of \$700 was given to the Gift Fund for purchasing those specific items. I will have Larry add this to his report. This way when we make a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, this will be reflected in there (I know it's been there for a few months – we had no idea we'd be shut down for as long as we were)!

Please take a look at the Board of Ed Budget brochure for 2021/2022 Superintendent Lorrie Rodrigue asked me to share this with our Seniors.

<file:///C:/Users/Dan/AppData/Local/Temp/NPS%20Budget%20Brochure.pdf> Highlight this line and open in Hyperlink to view.

On March 29, the Newtown Bee Associate Editor, John Voket (who moderated) presented, along with Maureen Crick-Owen and myself, a program on Suicide Prevention entitled: Newtown Bee Youth Suicide Awareness Roundtable. The link below will allow you to view the You Tube program. But more than that, I'd like to encourage you to share it with as many people as you can. One of the purposes of partnering with The Bee was so that people could view this anytime, 24/7. Going forward, there will be more programs such as these. This one focused on youth, but we are also going to present one for parents and Seniors.

Here is the link to the presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siV9FwJfGgE>.

Claire Theune was kind enough to share the information regarding Margaret Imbro's memorial service. If you'd like the information, please call me.

Stay well everyone, 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: April 19, 2021

COVID 19 vaccine clinics continued over the last month at the Senior Center. I am excited to report that with the Health District we have completed first dose vaccine appointments for all seniors who preregistered with the Town and who were still in need of the vaccine. To date, almost 4,000 vaccines have been administered in Town.

As we have moved below the age of 55 for scheduling appointments clinics will be moved out of the Senior Center and we will be reopening our doors for programming on May 3rd! We are looking forward to our members coming back in house for classes and groups. We will also be continuing to offer classes and events virtually as well. We want folks to participate in the format that they are most comfortable. All Health & Wellness classes will be offered in person and virtually at the same time. Stay tuned for details about program size and safety protocols.

I am looking forward to Curt's presentation about efforts to explore transportation needs in Newtown. I am hopeful that through these efforts we will gain a firmer understanding of the need in Town so that we can look to solutions that will adequately meet the need.

On April 1st Renters Rebate applications opened for this year. State law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut renters who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program. Renters' rebates can be up to \$900 for married couples and \$700 for single persons. The renters' rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. Applications will be accepted through October 1st. Seniors can apply by contacting Human Services at 203-270-4330.

The Human Services team hopes to see you at the Senior Center in May! Stay well!

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
1/31/2021	Qtrly Distribution-Knotts Trust 200-172		705.75		41,176.10
2/5/2021	Donation-Bazaar 220-19		65.00		41,241.10
3/25/2021	Donation-Bazaar 220-24		350.00		41,591.10
3/31/2021	Donation-Bazaar 220-25		168.00		41,759.10
3/31/2021	Donation-Bazaar 220-26		85.00		41,844.10
Less approved items to be booked:					
	Pool table	(3,550.00)			(3,550.00)
	Puzzle table	(1,600.00)			(1,600.00)
	Sr lunch balance	(223.25)			(223.25)
	Clocks	(50.00)			(50.00)
					<u>\$ 36,420.85</u>

Attachment D

Curt Symes

Professional Senior Advisor & Life-Planning Consultant

COA Information Presentation - 4/19/21

on

Newtown Seniors Transportation Needs Study

spanning 2011 to 2021

Why this Study

- From 2011 to 2014 Newtown Seniors advocated for a number of senior program improvements and needs:
- A modern, expanded “New” Senior Center
- More Exercise, Arts & Crafts, Education and Health & Wellness Programs
- Some Affordable Senior Housing Options
- Accredited Repair Contractor Leads and Chore Services
- Expanded & more usable Town Transportation Services
- A greater awareness and understanding of town workings, tax structure, etc?

Scope of this Study

- Research, Assess, Evaluate, Prioritize and Cost Estimate Transportation Options available to, across and beyond Newtown
- Identify Best-of-Breed Solutions
- Determine Financial Assistance, Grants and Funding available
- Prioritize and Assess do ability of Recommend Potential Solutions - easy vs. hard to achieve

Study Participants

- John Boccuzzi
- Natalie Jackman
- Neil Chaudhary
- Ned Simpson
- Janice Garten
- Curt Symes

Initial Study Objectives

- Joint Effort by Newtown Senior Services, the Commission on Aging (COA), Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS), other Service Organizations, etc?
- Identify potential Transportation Solution Delivery Providers
- Solicit Senior Requirements, Inputs and Concerns
- Identify Funding Sources, including Federal, State of CT, Newtown, Not for Profits, 501c3s, Grants, etc?

Next Steps

- Form a Newtown Seniors Transportation Committee with (BOS, LC, BOF) Support and Representation
- Identify, Select and Appoint Committee Leaders - Chair, Co-Chair, Rec. Secy.
- Multi-year, active committee effort
- Pass Go (in Monopoly speak or parlance)

Questions to be Answered

- Will town Officials, Taxpayers, Seniors, Disabled Parties, the Churches and Volunteers support the Program?
- Can a Transportation Committee be formed and staffed?
- Do Solutions exist that can be implemented across & beyond Newtown?
- Is Sufficient Funding Achievable to Sustain an Affordable Program?
- Identify Safety, Liability, Operational and other Constraints & Issues?