

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2021
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: Curt Symes, Barbara Bloom, Anna Wiedemann, LeReine Frampton, Claire Theune, Larry Passaro, Cris Carvalho Fadus, Nicole Camporeale

Via Teleconference: Anne Rothstein, Ruby Ryles, Joanne Albanesi, Lia Levitte

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

Public Comment – None

Introduce Nicole Camporeale our newly appointed COA Alternate Member – Members went around the table introducing themselves.

Kaki Taylor to introduce Jennifer Nash, the new Assistant Director of the CH Booth Library – K. Taylor introduced J. Nash as the new Assistant Director of the CH Booth Library.

Minutes – B. Bloom moved to approve the minutes from the 4/19/21 meeting with the correction on third motion “L. Passaro moved to table discussion about forming a group until the next meeting. L. Frampton seconded, motion passes” (8 Yes) should be (7 Yes). L. Frampton seconded, all in favor.

Chair Report – Attachment A

Vice Chair, Grant - No update

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

First Selectman update – First Selectman Rosenthal reported that normalcy seems to be coming back and sooner than most thought it would. In the beginning of the year they thought end of the summer and now we are talking mid-May. C. Symes reported that he, A. Wiedemann, and J. Boccuzzi, met with First Selectman Rosenthal regarding senior transportation. First Selectman Rosenthal suggested doing a survey. He explained that they need this to see for certain what the demand is. L. Frampton explained that she has been involved with Nunnawauk Meadows for years and the only problem they have seen in transportation for large wheelchairs. They had HART come to talk to residents but very few people attended. A. Wiedemann explained that FISH only received 2 calls for transportation during the shutdown.

Treasurers Report (Attachment C) – L. Passaro reported that once again there are no changes since March. He pointed out that the crafters have contributed \$2,945 to the gift fund this year. L. Frampton moved to send the treasurers report to audit. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

Volunteer Opportunity/Age Well Ambassador (Attachment D) – R. Ryles explained that part of the program is to train ambassadors to identify food insecure seniors and help them. There is online training is June 2 and 3rd.

Discussion and possible action regarding the Arts Festival – J. Albanesi moved to authorize payment of \$50 for participation at the Arts Festival. L. Frampton seconded, all in favor.

MEMBER COMMENTS – L. Levitte reported that Governor Lamont signed Senate Bill 817, “An Act Concerning Senior Centers and Senior Crime Prevention Education”. A. Wiedemann invited Senator Tony Hwang and State Representative Mitch Bolinsky to come to the next COA meeting. L. Passaro reported that the Chamber of Commerce will be sending out a constant contact to all their members to get a classification for their business. Based on that feedback, they will proceed on making phone calls.

Having no further business, C Symes moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:49pm. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachments: Chair Report, Report from Human Services Director, Treasurers Report and Age Well Ambassador

Attachment A

COA Chair Report, May 17, 2021

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE AND VENUE CHANGE. WE WILL MEET AT **3PM** IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL CENTER. SPACE IS LIMITED BECAUSE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING. IF YOU ARE UNCOMFORTABLE MEETING IN PERSON, YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE AGENDA HAS THE INFORMATION FOR YOU TO JOIN VIA PHONE/COMPUTER.

Welcome to Nicole Camporeale, our recently appointed Alternate to the COA. Nicole is an attorney with a background in estate planning, elder law, Medicaid and Long Term Planning as well as other areas of law. I will let Nicole share her information on Monday. I look forward to meeting and working with Nicole.

I will have the clipboard to pass around.

- Flier for the Arts Festival which takes place September 17-19th
- Bee article where FONS partnered with Newtown Human Services along with Bill Pendergast of Pendergast Garbage Roll-Off and Terry Rooney of Smart Care Exteriors who re-roofed a mobile home of resident Rita Milo. All services were donated! Newtown at its BEST!
- The pool table has arrived and is being used. There's a picture of Bill Kirsch playing pool!
- 2 weeks of Senior News
- Bee article introducing Sandy Hook resident, Jennifer Nash who is the new Assistant Director at CH Booth Library (you will notice I kept Jennifer Nash on the agenda. Due to technical difficulties last month – we were unable to meet her. Welcome Jennifer!)
- Copy of our By-Laws
- Copy of the COA meeting dates

Selectman Rosenthal, Natalie Jackson, Curt Symes, myself and via phone Ned Simpson and John Boccuzzi, had a meeting to discuss transportation – one of the Livable Community initiatives. A survey will be put together with the help of Rick from HART Transportation. More discussion to be had on May 19th, via ZOOM with FONS running the meeting.

You will notice on the agenda there's a great volunteer opportunity from Age Well CT. They are offering an Ambassadors Program at United Way of Western CT. The mission of the program is to help Greater Danbury Area older adults obtain nutritious food and lead a healthy life. I will forward you the email that Natalie Jackson sent to me. The virtual Ambassador Program training is **June 2nd** and **June 3rd** with United Way of Western CT

I am so happy to be meeting in person. I certainly understand and respect everyone's decision to meet in person or via computer. I have been cooped up way too long and have been itching to get back to things! Vaccinated and ready to roll (thank you Newtown Senior Center and the Health Department for being on the forefront of vaccinations!) The Senior Center is buzzing away! Hopefully, the pandemic is in our rear view mirror!

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: May 17, 2021

Through the Newtown Health District over 4,000 COVID 19 vaccines were administered in Town. Together the Health District staff and DHS team were able to reach out to all residents 55 and over who had preregistered to receive the vaccine through the Health District. Residents who had not already received the vaccine elsewhere were able to come into the Senior Center for their first and second doses. With that effort now complete we are excited to report...the Senior Center is back open for business!

It has been wonderful to having our members back in house for classes and groups. We have also continued to offer classes and events virtually so members can participate in the format that they are most comfortable. As the weather warms and we move into summer we are looking forward to offering more events outdoors. Planning for a summer concert to celebrate July 4th is in full swing in partnership with Parks & Recreation. It is exciting to be planning events to bring our community together again, safely and in person!

The Senior Center crafters continue to be very busy with their Pop-up Boutiques at the Community Center. Not being able to hold the traditional, annual Bazaar didn't deter them! Please stop by and see their amazing creations this coming Saturday, the 22nd, at the Community Center between 8:00 and 2:00. All proceeds from their sales go directly back to the Senior Center gift fund.

Just a reminder that Renters Rebate applications for this year are open. 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.

Enjoy this beautiful weather and 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	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
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				34,235.37
12/14/2020	Donations- Bazaar- 220-14	(434.41)	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				41,591.10
3/31/2021	Donation-Bazaar 220-25		350.00		41,759.10
3/31/2021	Donation-Bazaar 220-26		168.00		41,844.10
4/23/2021	Qtrly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-252			705.75	42,549.85
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>\$ 37,126.60</u>

Attachment D



Do you enjoy volunteering in the community?

Do you like to meet new people?

Do you like to help people?

Are you familiar with the Danbury area?

Become an

Age Well Ambassador!

The Age Well Ambassador Program is a partnership between United Way of Western Connecticut and the Age Well Community Council. The mission of Age Well Ambassadors is to help older adults obtain nutritious food and lead a healthy life. The time commitment is flexible.

As a volunteer Age Well Ambassador you will:

- Help older adults connect to nutritious food resources and learn about food pantries, farmers' markets, and other food programs.
- Connect older adults to programs that will help them complete Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applications.
- Share information on other community food resources that can help older adults stay healthy and active.

To volunteer for the Age Well Ambassador Program, you should:

- Have a desire to help older adults in the community learn about food resources.
- Be willing to learn about food insecurity and food resources in Greater Danbury.
- Have good communications skills.
- Be willing to attend the upcoming training sessions. The new ambassadors will be trained on June 2nd 10 AM- 12 PM and June 3rd 10 AM- 11 AM.
- Be willing to attend monthly meetings for the first few months, and be able to commit to the program for one year.

Please note: This is a volunteer program with no monetary compensation.

Interested?

Contact Farah Ahmad at United Way of Western Connecticut

203-883-0879

farah.ahmad@uwwesternct.org



United Way
of Western Connecticut



Interested?

CONTACT:
Farah Ahmad
United Way of Western CT
203-883-6034
farah.ahmad@uwwesternct.org

PLEASE NOTE:

This is a volunteer program with no monetary compensation

Become an AgeWell Ambassador!

Do you enjoy volunteering for your community?

Do you like to help people?

Are you familiar with the Danbury area?

The Age Well Ambassador Program is a partnership between United Way of Western Connecticut and the Age Well Community Council. The mission of Age Well Ambassadors is to help older adults obtain nutritious food and lead a healthy life. The time commitment is flexible.

As a volunteer Age Well Ambassador you will:

- Share information with older adults over the phone and help explain how to access food in the community to help them stay healthy and active.
- Connect older adults to programs that will help them complete Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applications.

To volunteer for the Age Well Ambassador Program, you should:

- Have a desire to help older adults in the community learn about food resources.
- Be willing to learn about food insecurity and food resources in Greater Danbury.
- Have good communications skills.
- Be willing to attend a virtual 4-hour training session.
- Be willing to attend virtual monthly meetings for the first few months.

Eat Well Age Well is a program of:

agewell
community
council
DANBURY, CT



United Way
of Western Connecticut



Older Adults in DANBURY...

Are You Getting Enough Food?

If you are over 60 and are struggling with getting enough food each month, we encourage you to learn about SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and other resources in the community to obtain healthy food. Please call the number below and we will have an Age Well Ambassador connect with you. There is no reason to go without. Everyone deserves healthy food!

We're here to help!

Please call:

Farah Ahmad at (203) 883-6034 or farah.ahmad@uwwesternct.org to connect with an Age Well Ambassador.

Stay healthy! Stay connected!

Eat Well. Age Well. is a program of:

VISIT:
agewellct.org/foodhelp

