

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, September 20, 2021  
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:** Anne Rothstein, Trisha Gogliettino, Larry Passaro, Clair Theune, Barbara Bloom, Curt Symes, LeReine Frampton, Cris Carvalho Fadus

**Via Teleconference:** Lia Levitte, Nicole Comporeale, Joanne Albanesi, Ruby Ryles

**Also Present:** Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, Anna Weidemann, Judy Larson and Director of Nunnawauk Meadows Marry Salley one member of the public

L. Frampton moved to add Transportation Discussion to the agenda. C. Symes seconded, all in favor.

**Public Comment** – A letter was received from Lee DeLucia regarding trips and lunches. N. Jackson said the delay in lunches is because they are changing providers and working with a grant. It is hopeful everything can be up and running by November. N. Jackson will look into what other senior centers are doing about trips. A. Wiedemann also spoke with the crafters, and they would like two (2) phones installs in the crafters rooms. N. Jackson said that one (1) is already on order. They would also like rails in the hallways, and handicap doors the for the multipurpose room

**Minutes** – L. Passaro moved to approve the minutes of the 8/16/21 meeting. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

**Chair Report** – No report

**Vice Chair** – No report

**Director of Human Services** – N. Jackson reviewed her report (attached)

**Selectman** – No report

**Update on Puzzle Table and Plaque** – A. Wiedemann finally spoke to Bob Sharp's son. He would like the plaque to say Bob and when the table is installed, she will send him pictures of it.

**Treasurer's Report (attached)**– L. Passaro reviewed the Treasurers report (attached). There was only one expenditure which was dinner for the crafters. The balance in the fund with commitments is \$36,941. L. Frampton moved to send the Treasurers report to audit. C. Symes seconded, all in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Presentation and discussion of Arts Festival** – C. Symes reported that the Newtown Arts Festival was a tremendous success. They received a lot of complement for all they have accomplished. They gave out a lot of applications and resource guides. Transportation was a major topic with those that stopped by the booth as well as affordable housing.

**Transportation** – B. Bloom reported that the transportation subcommittee is trying to look at all avenues and also looking at what else is out there and what is available. October 1 will start new grant funding. The grant for the bus is complete but they have not heard anything. They are compiling the final draft of the survey for seniors 55 and over. There is a Danbury Nurse registry that can assist seniors with doctor appointments for a lower cost than Uber or Lyft.

**Member Comments** – None

Having no further business, L. Passaro moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55pm. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted  
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachments: Report from Human Services Director, Treasurers Report



## 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 20, 2021

As we roll from summer into fall things have been busy at the Senior Center and on the Human Services front. Some highlights over this past month include:

- Celebrating our grandparents with a weekend full of events. DHS partnered with the Community Center and Parks & Recreation to bring our seniors and their families 4 fun events over **Grandparents Weekend**, including 2 concerts, an art project, and a good ol' Sock Hop! Our Friday concert and Sunday Sock Hop events each brought about 60 guests.
- The Senior Center gets ready for **Medicare Open Enrollment** to kick off. We have brought in, and are bringing in several more, presenters to talk with members about insurance rights and options.
- The Senior Center hosted a first **Flu Vaccine Clinic** of the season. A second is scheduled for mid-October. We continue to be in constant contact with the Health District regarding **COVID Vaccines**. If the Health District is a source for distributing the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose the Senior Center will again be a clinic site for our senior residents. The **Health Room at the Senior Center** is being outfitted with new cabinetry and work space for our visiting healthcare providers. This will create a more comfortable and confidential space for healthcare professionals to meet with members. For example our blood pressure checks, which started up again this month, will be located in the Health Room going forward.
- Efforts to **assess the transportation needs** of our community's seniors continue. The committee, including members from HARTransit, WestCOG, the Kennedy Center, vested community members, COA, FONS and myself, is almost ready to push out the survey to residents 55+.
- The Senior Center joined the COA and the Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) for a shared booth at last weekend's **Arts Festival**. The booth allowed us to share the array of programs, services, and resources available to our senior residents. Thank you to Curt Symes for being the driver behind organizing the effort and being behind the booth for most of the Festival.
- **Classes and programs** at the Senior Center continue to thrive. Our Lunch and Learns and Speaker Presentations are nearing, or hitting, registration capacity for each event. As a result of the variety of programs we have had several residents come in to the Senior Center to become new members and to take advantage of these opportunities. While any resident is able to come to the Center for an event without membership (if registration is not filled).... spread the word membership does have its privileges! So far for this membership year, starting on July 1, we have 454 members.
- The Senior Center Crafters are in full swing with the fall and holiday **Pop-up Boutiques**. The Boutiques will showcase their beautiful creations including fall & patriotic décor, quilts, floral arrangements, holiday cheer, and much, much more.....there is something for everyone! Their first fall weekend sale brought in over \$250 in revenue that will go to the COA Gift Fund. There are sale dates through December. The Boutique dates will be advertised in The Bee and we hope COA will also help us spread the word! The Upcoming sale dates include: 10/9, 10/16, 11/13 & 12/4 at the Newtown Community Center.
- **Energy assistance applications** for 2021 have opened through Newtown Human Services. Residents needing information about the application process can contact Human Services at 203-270-4330.

Finally, I hope everyone has the chance to come and see the beautiful new mosaic hanging in the Senior Center. The piece is now framed and hung in our Multipurpose Room. It is a result of the *Looking to the Future with 20/20 Hindsight- A Year of Reflection & Change* writing and art initiative through a grant secured by FONS. It is an incredible addition to our Center. Come check it out and learn about how the project was conceptualized and made a reality....in the midst of the pandemic. Enjoy the beautiful weather!

Respectfully submitted,

*Natalie*

Natalie Jackson, LCSW  
Director, Newtown Human Services

**People that were active between 08/17/2021 and 09/17/2021**

<b>Age Range as of 09/17/2021</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Ages 55-59	21	1.7%
Ages 60-64	87	6.9%
Ages 65-69	209	16.7%
Ages 70-74	260	20.8%
Ages 75-79	249	19.9%
Ages 80-84	187	14.9%
Ages Below 55	9	0.7%
Ages Over 85	229	18.3%
Unknown	3	0.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1254</b>	<b>100%</b>

Resident	399
Non-resident	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>454</b>

<b>New Membership</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Renewal</b>	<b>332</b>

# Event Occurrences from 08/17/2021 to 09/17/2021

## Filters:

Category	Event	# of Events	Hours Scheduled	Unduplicated	Zoom Avg
F - Class/Workshop					
	Art Class	5	10	16	N/A
	Computers	5	5	5	N/A
	Computers With Sean	1	4	4	N/A
	Knitting	5	5	20	N/A
	Spanish	2	2	6	N/A
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>49</b>	
F - Health Screenings					
	Blood Pressure	1	2	5	N/A
	Flu Shot Clinic	1	2	6	N/A
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	
F - Health/Fitness					
	Broadway Burn	5	5	12	4
	Chair Pilates	5	5	17	1
	Chair Yoga	4	4	17	7
	Deep Stretch	5	5	17	4
	Flex, Fit & Tone	4	4	22	1
	Floor Yoga	8	8	12	7
	Line/Country Dancing	3	3	15	N/A
	Move and Groove	4	4	9	7
	Tai Chi	2	2	17	N/A
	Zumba	3	3	11	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>72</b>	
F - Off Site Excursions					
	Grandparents Day	1	1	21	N/A
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	
F - Rec./Entertain					
	Billiards	23	23	10	N/A
	Canasta	6	18	5	N/A
	Catch Phrase	5	5	1	N/A
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>16</b>	
F - Social Activity/Event					
	Crafts	15	30	8	N/A
	Lunch and Learn	4	4	55	1
	Ping Pong	8	8	1	N/A
	Poker	5	15	8	N/A
	SockHop	1	2	16	N/A
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>88</b>	
F - Socializing					
	Socializing & Just Visiting	24	216	30	N/A
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>30</b>	
F - Special Events					
	Movie	1	1	5	N/A
	Speaker	7	7	47	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>52</b>	
F - Special Groups					
	Coffee & Conversation with	1	1	13	

# **Event Statistics from 08/17/2021 to 09/17/2021**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Duplicated</b>	<b>Unduplicated</b>
F - Class/Workshop	132	50
F - Health Screenings	28	28
F - Health/Fitness	391	83
F - Off Site Excursions	21	21
F - Rec./Entertain	86	16
F - Social Activity/Event	193	78
F - Socializing	66	30
F - Special Events	82	58
F - Special Groups	32	24
F - Trips	48	48
<b>Total Event Signins</b>	1079	244

Police Department tour was canceled

## COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	BALANCE
7/1/21	Beginning Balance				39,338.65
7/26/2021	Qtrly Distribution- Knotts Trust- 200-16				
7/30/2021	Ck #45928- Anna Wiedemann-Reim for Gift Card for Zach Macey & Ice Cream	(121.38)		705.75	40,044.40
					39,923.02
8/11/2021	Donation for Suicide Prevention- Archdeacon Family Foundation		525.00		40,448.02
8/18/2021	Donation from J. Albanesi for flowers for Dan & Anna Wiedemann event- 200-31		200.00		40,648.02
9/2/2021	Ck #46532- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for thank you dinner for crafters	(279.49)			40,368.53
	Less approved items to be booked:				
	Puzzle table				(1,600.00)
	Sr lunch balance				(201.87)
	Suicide Prevention Donation				(525.00)
	Sock Hop Donation				(200.00)
	Flowers for Dan & Anna Wiedemann event				(200.00)
	Purchase of dishes				(700.00)
					<u>\$ 36,941.66</u>