

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING

Regular Meeting

Monday, October 18, 2021

Newtown Senior Center, Studio 1, 8 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470

Called to order at 4:00pm

*THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING*

**Present:** Anne Rothstein, Larry Passaro, Clair Theune, Barbara Bloom, Curt Symes, LeReine Frampton, Nicole Comporeale, Joanne Albanese

**Present via Teleconference:** Lia Levitte

**Absent:** Trisha Gogliettino, Ruby Ryles

**Also Present:** Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, Director of Nunnawauk Meadow Mary Salley, Jennifer Nash Assistant Director of the CH Booth Library and three members of the public

**Public Comments** - None

**Minutes** – L. Frampton moved to approve the minutes of 9/20/21 meeting. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

**Chair Report** – A. Rothstein will go to the library to get onto the foundation center website to find other sources of funding.

**Vice Chair Report** – B. Bloom reported that she has been working on the transportation survey.

**Director of Human Services** – N. Jackson reviewed her report (Attachment A). They discussed grab bars down the hallway. There are many options and they are investigating which will work the best. Grab bars were requested in the middle stalls but they are too small. L. Frampton suggested maybe a handle near the toilet paper as an alternative. The dishwasher needs contractors in for plumbing and electrician and the dishes have been ordered. The WIFI is a \$45,000 fix for the building. They had a pool tournament this afternoon which was a huge success.

**Selectman** – None

**Update on Puzzle Table and plaque** – A. Wiedemann will order the plaque.

**Treasurer's Report** – L. Passaro reviewed his report (Attachment B). The only open items are the puzzle table, balance in lunch fund, suicide prevention donation and purchase of dishes. The balance that is not committed is \$37,210.16. C. Symes moved to approve the Treasurer's report. L. Frampton seconded, all in favor.

**OLD Business**

*Meeting times* – A. Rothstien put this on the agenda for a reminder that the start time for the November, December, January and February meetings is 3pm. The meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building.

*Handicap access* – N. Jackson reported that they will need to get prices for this and get an electrician on board as well. This will come out of the budget, not from COA.

**NEW Business**

*Discussion of Transportation Survey* – The COA discussed the survey, the purpose and options.

*Approval of Expense for Tree Planting* – L. Frampton moved to approve the cost of \$42 for tree planting. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

*Members Comments* – C. Symes asked to have affordable housing on the next meeting agenda.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachments: Report from Human Services Director, Treasurers Report



# Attachment A

## 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 18, 2021

Greetings Members of the COA!

As we hit mid-October I am thrilled to share several exciting updates and highlights. Among the top are:

- **Transportation:** 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, have finalized the draft of our survey to push out to all residents 55+. We are asking COA members to take complete the mock survey so we can work out any kinks prior to our sending. The survey will be done in Survey Monkey and pushed out through various avenues including the Senior Center, the Bee, the Town email blast, community partners, etc. Paper copies will also be available at numerous sites and if needed a resident can contact the Senior Center and a DHS team member will complete the survey with the resident by phone. WestCog will be assisting in analyzing the data, with the input from the rest of the committee. In other transportation news: we will hear in January 2022 if we will be awarded the 5310 grant through DOT for a new 10 seat van and the Town is exploring the purchase of a new 16 passenger van with the federal ARP funds.
- **Lunch Program:** we are at the final stages of shifting our lunch program with WCAAA from CW Resources to Whitsons. Whitsons is reviewing the MOU between the Town and their company. They are also continuing their efforts to fully staff their sites. As is the trend everywhere food services are in need of workers. While they work to get their staffing at capacity and finalize our MOU we are going to kick off our lunch program 2 days a week. The Senior Center will be covering the cost of the meals until we are operational under the grant. Our hope is this introduction to our new lunch program will allow members to tryout the new menu and will draw in numbers going forward. The program will be operating Tuesdays and Thursdays being October 26<sup>th</sup>. The menu will be promoted this week and members can call the Senior Center to sign-up for lunch.
- **A facilities update:** I will share an update on items pending during our meeting. These include: handicap buttons for 3 doors in the Center, hallway railing, grab bars in the bathrooms, the dishwasher, and dishes.

Classes and programs in the Senior Center continue to thrive. Our COA meeting today follows our first pool tournament! We continue to explore new and different programs, speakers, and events to keep things exciting and fresh. The Department of Human Services has also begun organizing our efforts to kick off our holiday programs- including Thanksgiving Baskets with WIN and holiday gift baskets with the Newtown Fund. Both of these programs continue to serve our seniors in need.

Please save the date for a *Holiday Open House* event at the Senior Center on **December 6<sup>th</sup>**. I hope to have some COA volunteers here to help staff the event so all runs smoothly!

Respectfully submitted,

*Natalie*

Natalie Jackson, LCSW  
Director, Newtown Human Services

**People that were active between 09/20/2021 and 10/15/2021**

<b>Age Range as of 10/15/2021</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Ages 55-59	20	1.6%
Ages 60-64	91	7.1%
Ages 65-69	211	16.5%
Ages 70-74	263	20.5%
Ages 75-79	249	19.4%
Ages 80-84	198	15.5%
Ages Below 55	9	0.7%
Ages Over 85	239	18.7%
Unknown	3	0.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1283</b>	<b>100%</b>

Resident	438
Non-resident	62
<b>Totals</b>	<b>500</b>

<b>New Members</b>	145
<b>Renewals</b>	355

**Event Statistics from 09/20/2021 to 10/15/2021**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Duplicated</b>	<b>Unduplicated</b>
F - Class/Workshop	97	47
F - Health Screenings	1	1
F - Health/Fitness	362	80
F - Rec./Entertain	90	19
F - Social Activity/Event	173	65
F - Socializing	83	23
F - Special Events	72	45
F - Special Groups	57	40
<b>Total Event Signins</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>204</b>

Event Occurrences from 09/20/2021 to 10/15/2021

Category	Event	# of Events	Hours Scheduled	Unduplicated	Zoom
F - Class/Workshop					
	Art Class	4	8	11	NA
	Computers	4	4	6	NA
	Computers With Sean	1	4	2	NA
	Knitting	4	4	15	NA
	Spanish	2	2	5	NA
	sticker book	1	1	10	NA
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>47</b>	
F - Health Screenings					
	Blood Pressure	1	2	1	NA
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
F - Health/Fitness					
	Broadway Burn	3	3	11	5
	Chair Pilates	4	4	15	not recorded
	Chair Yoga	3	3	21	not recorded
	Deep Stretch	4	4	9	not recorded
	Flex, Fit & Tone	4	4	23	1
	Floor Yoga	7	7	15	8
	Line/Country Dancing	4	4	20	NA
	Move and Groove	3	3	8	not recorded
	Tai Chi	3	3	19	0
	Zumba	3	3	7	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>76</b>	
F - Rec./Entertain					
	Billiards	19	19	11	NA
	Canasta	4	12	7	NA
	Catch Phrase	4	4	0	NA
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>18</b>	
F - Social Activity/Event					
	Crafts	13	26	11	NA
	Lunch and Learn	4	4	49	0
	Ping Pong	3	3	0	NA
	Poker	4	12	7	NA
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>65</b>	
F - Socializing					
	Socializing & Just Visiting	20	180	23	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>23</b>	
F - Special Events					
	Movie	1	1	1	NA
	Speaker	5	5	32	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	
F - Special Groups					
	Coffee & Conversation with	2	2	25	NA
	Parkinson Support Group	1	1	6	NA
	Womens Discussion Group	3	39	9	NA
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38</b>	
	<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>204</b>	

Attachment B

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				
8/18/2021	Donation from J. Albanesi for flowers for Dan & Anna Wiedemann event- 200-31		525.00		40,448.02
			200.00		40,648.02
9/2/2021	Ck #46532- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for thank you dinner for crafters	(279.49)			40,368.53
9/16/2021	Ck #46747-John Voket-Grandparent Sock Hop	(150.00)			40,218.53
9/22/2021	Bazaar -Donation		218.50		40,437.03
9/28/2021	Aug P-Card- Caraluzzi's- Flowers for Anna Wiedemann event	(200.00)			40,237.03
Less approved items to be booked:					
	Puzzle table				(1,600.00)
	Sr lunch balance				(201.87)
	Suicide Prevention Donation				(525.00)
	Purchase of dishes				(700.00)
				\$	37,210.16