

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 15, 2021
Newtown Municipal Building, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470
Called to order at 3:00pm

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

Present: Anne Rothstein, Larry Passaro, Clair Theune, Barbara Bloom, Curt Symes, Nicole Comporeale, Trisha Gogliettino, Xiao Han (3:10)

Present via Teleconference: Lia Levitte

Absent: Ruby Ryles, LeReine Frampton, Joanne Albanese, Lia Levitte

Also Present: Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Director of Nunnawauk Meadow Mary Salley, Jennifer Nash Assistant Director of CH Booth Library and one member of the public.

Public Comments - None

Minutes – B. Bloom moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2021 meeting. L. Passaro seconded, all in favor.

Chair Report – No report

Vice Chair Report – No report

Director of Human Services – N. Jackson reviewed her report (attachment A). She asked for everyone to get the work out about the transportation survey. The lunch program has kicked off two days a week. N. Jackson also asked for volunteers for bell ringers. The Salvation Army funds will be depleted fast. Last year fuel deliveries cost about \$300 and this year is \$500. 90% of what is collected stays in town.

First Selectman – First Selectman Rosenthal reported that the Health District has been holding some booster shot clinics and people are jumping at the chance to get one. A. Rothstein asked about affordable housing. First Selectman Rosenthal explained that the state affordable housing guidelines say you have to 10% of your housing stock to be affordable and it has to be deed restricted affordable. In reality, most Connecticut communities don't meet the 10% threshold. Newtown from a deed restricted is under 1%. P&Z created the incentive housing zone which allows a developer who applies for that zoning to have 20% of the housing affordable. Affordable housing is 80% of the median income which would be someone making \$70,000 to \$75,000 per year.

Update on Puzzle Table and plaque – A. Wiedemann reported that they got the table, the plaque and had a nice dedication to Bob Sharpe. N. Jackson did opening remarks, Monsignor

Bob said a prayer and a few words about him because he was a parishioner at Saint Rose and First Selectman Rosenthal also said a few words about Bob.

Treasurer's Report – L. Passaro reviewed his report (Attachment B). C. Symes moved to approve the Treasurer's report and send it to audit. C. Theune seconded, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Handicap access at Senior Center – L. Passaro moved to go forward with pricing. T. Gogliettino has been in buildings that they are installed in but not very are not effective. She will assist N. Jackson with location and height to be effective. C. Symes seconded, all in favor.

Update on Transportation Survey – Discussed in Director of Human Services report.

Report of Nominating Committee – C. Theune presented the proposed slate of officer nominees (attachment C). There will be a vote next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Affordable Housing in Newtown – Discussed with First Selectman report.

Member comments – L. Passaro would like a larger screen in the multipurpose room. L. Passaro moved to have N. Jackson look into a new screen and get pricing for various options. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk



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: November 15, 2021

Hello Members of the COA,

As we head into the holidays we are looking forward to several celebrations at the Senior Center. Our Thanksgiving lunch is planned for November 23rd. Along with a full Thanksgiving feast prepared by our new meal site provider, Whitsons, we will enjoy entertainment with Genes Magic. The December holidays will be kicked off with the return of our annual Craft Boutique on December 4th at the Senior Center. The parties continue with a holiday Open House on December 10th and a holiday lunch at the Amber Room with our neighbors from the Bethel Senior Center on December 21st. As we prepare for a packed November and December calendar I hope to be able to call on our COA to help at some of these larger events. If you are able to volunteer some time please let me know and we can talk details!

In addition to all the happenings at the Senior Center, the following updates and highlights are important to share:

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 launched our survey for all residents 55+. The survey is in Survey Monkey and has been pushed out through various avenues including the Senior Center, the Bee, Town email blasts, community partners, etc. Paper copies are 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 analyzing the data, with input from the rest of the committee. The survey will remain open until November 24th. To date we have 339 responses. We really need to boost our response rate. Please help us spread the word about the survey to your neighbors, family, friends, and colleagues..... The survey can be found at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/LV9J7HL

Lunch Program: We have been able to kick off the lunch program 2 days a week while Whitsons works to get their staffing to capacity and finalize our MOU. The Senior Center is covering the cost of the meals until we are operational under the grant. I think this introduction to our new lunch program has been a success and the feedback has been very positive from our diners.

A facilities update: Our facilities manager continues to work to secure an electrician and plumber for the dishwasher installation. As soon as those contractors are secured we are ready to order the dishwasher. I will also share information out the possible installation of railings down the hallway at our meeting.

The Department of Human Services team is in the throes of connecting with residents in need of Thanksgiving Baskets with WIN and holiday gift baskets with the Newtown Fund. Both of these programs continue to serve our seniors in need. Once all basket requests are in I will again share the numbers of seniors who received holiday baskets. Energy Assistance applications continue. Residents who qualify for this aid can reach out to Jackie or Alyssa at 203-270-4330 to complete their application.

Finally mark your calendars....the Salvation Army has scheduled the bell ringing dates for December 10, 11, 17, & 18. I hope many members of the COA can help us ring this year. These funds are incredibly important in our efforts to meet the needs of our most vulnerable community members.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie

Natalie Jackson, LCSW
Director, Newtown Human Services

People that were active between 10/18/2021 and 11/12/2021
Filters:

Age Range as of 11/12/2021	Count	Percent
Ages 55-59	22	1.7%
Ages 60-64	92	7.0%
Ages 65-69	215	16.3%
Ages 70-74	270	20.4%
Ages 75-79	264	20.0%
Ages 80-84	204	15.4%
Ages Below 55	9	0.7%
Ages Over 85	245	18.5%
Unknown	3	0.2%
Totals	1324	100%

Resident	490
Non-Resident	70
	560

New Members	179
Renewals	381

Event Occurrences from 10/18/2021 to 11/12/2021

Category	Event	# of Events	Hours Scheduled	Unduplicated	Zoom Avg
F - Class/Workshop					
	Art Class	4	8	16	NA
	Computers	4	4	4	NA
	Knitting	4	4	16	NA
	Total	12	16	35	
F - Health Screenings					
	Flu Shot Clinic	1	2	83	NA
	Total	1	2	24	
F - Health/Fitness					
	Broadway Burn	4	4	17	5
	Chair Pilates	3	3	15	not reported
	Chair Yoga	3	3	23	not reported
	Deep Stretch	3	3	7	not reported
	Flex Fit & Tone	4	4	24	4
	Floor Yoga	8	8	18	not reported
	Line/Country Dancing	4	4	17	NA
	Move and Groove	3	3	13	NA
	Parkinson Exercise Class	1	1	4	NA
	Tai Chi	4	4	24	NA
	Zumba	4	4	17	3
	Total	41	41	91	
F - Nutrition					
	Daily Lunch	5	5	27	NA
	Total	5	5	27	
F - Rec./Entertain					
	Billiards	19	19	10	NA
	Canasta	2	6	4	NA
	Catch Phrase	3	3	0	NA
	Pool Tournament	1	3	25	NA
	Total	25	31	31	
F - Social Activity/Event					
	Crafts	12	24	10	NA
	Lunch and Learn	5	5	48	1
	Ping Pong	4	4	2	NA
	Poker	4	12	7	NA
	Total	25	45	65	
F - Socializing					
	Socializing & Just Visiting	19	171	45	NA
	Total	19	171	45	
F - Special Events					
	Art Show	1	2	29	NA
	Movie	1	1	0	NA
	Speaker	7	7	60	0
	Total	9	10	73	
F - Special Groups					
	COA Roundtable	1	1	5	NA
	Coffee & Conversation with	1	1	7	NA

Parkinson Support Group	1	1	5	NA
Womens Discussion Group	4	52	6	NA
Total	7	55	22	
P - Class/Workshop				
AARP DRIVING COURSE	1	4 Cancelled		
Total	1	4		
P - Social Activity/Event				
Mens Breakfast	1	2	8	NA
Total	1	2	8	
Grand Totals	146	382	241	

Event Statistics from 10/18/2021 to 11/12/2021**Filters:**

Category	Duplicated	Unduplicated
F - Class/Workshop	72	35
F - Health Screenings	46	46
F - Health/Fitness	460	94
F - Nutrition	58	28
F - Rec./Entertain	83	33
F - Social Activity/Event	192	69
F - Socializing	86	45
F - Special Events	133	78
F - Special Groups	31	22
P - Class/Workshop	15	15
P - Social Activity/Event	8	8
Total Event Sign ins	1184	241

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			705.75
8/11/2021	Donation for Suicide Prevention- Archdeacon Family Foundation	(121.38)		
8/18/2021	Donation from J. Albanesi for flowers for Dan & Anna Wiedemann event- 200-31		525.00	
9/2/2021	Ck #46532- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for thank you dinner for crafters		200.00	
9/16/2021	Ck #46747-John Voket-Grandparent Sock Hop	(279.49)		
9/22/2021	Bazaar -Donation 220-15	(150.00)		
9/28/2021	Aug P-Card- Caraluzzi's- Flowers for Anna Wiedemann event	(200.00)	218.50	
10/20/2021	Bazaar-Donation 220-18			
10/29/2021	Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust- 200-91		200.00	
11/4/2021	Ck #47332- Planters Choice- Red Maple Tree- for recognition for those who died from suicide			705.75
11/9/2021	Bazaar- Donation 220-19	(567.00)		
	Less approved items to be booked:		190.00	
	Puzzle table			
	Sr lunch balance			
	Purchase of dishes			
				(1,600.00)
				(201.87)
				(700.00)
				<u>\$ 38,263.91</u>

Attachment C

**Proposed* Slate of Officer Nominees
for the Next Commission on Aging**

Anne Rothstein Chair[man]**

Barbara Bloom.....Vice Chair[man]**

Larry Passaro.....Treasurer

****Interest was expressed by these candidates in various conversations
and by email.***

*****Uncertain how candidates wish to be addressed, as Chairman,
Chairperson, or Chair.***

**----Prepared by Claire Theune and LeReine Frampton of the COA
Nominating Committee.**

November 15, 2021