

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 24, 2022
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, Nicole Comporeale, LeReine Frampton

Present via Teleconference: Clair Theune, Joanne Albanese, Xiao Han, Larry Passaro, Trisha Gogliettino Lia Levitte

Absent: Ruby Ryles, Barbara Bloom

Also Present: Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, Curt Symes, Anna Wiedeman, Officer Maryhelen McCarthy, Director of Nunnawauk Meadows Mary Salley, and Jennifer Nash Assistant Director of CH Booth Library

Public Comments – Officer McCarthy wanted everyone to know what an excellent job Natalie Jackson has done on elderly cases. She can contact her at any time and she is very responsive and working really hard with the challenges.

Curt Symes gave an overview of Attachment A.

L. Frampton moved to add to the agenda approval of up to \$500 for food for valentine day for the seniors, and also the approval for up to \$1200 from the gift fund for framing photos. C. Theune seconded, all in favor.

Minutes – J. Albanese moved to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021 meeting. L. Levitte seconded, all in favor.

Chair Report – A. Rothstein will be attending the February and March meetings via zoom because she will be out of town. B. Bloom will run the meetings.

Vice Chair Report – No report

Director of Human Services – Reviewed her report (Attachment B).

Treasurer's Report – L. Passaro reviewed the treasurers report (attachment C). L. Frampton moved to send the treasurer's report to audit. C. Theune seconded, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Information on TV – The TV has been ordered and should be in by the end of the week. It is an 85" Sony with a wall mount so they can easily get to the back of it and use it for presentations.

Follow-up on Discussion of Handicap access at Senior Center – N. Jackson reported that the price tag is much larger than they anticipated so they are going to add it to the ARP funding, not from the gift fund.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval for up to \$500 for food for Valentine's day for the seniors – N. Jackson explained that in February they are having a Party Heart-y party. P&R will pay for the entertainers, and she is asking for the COA gift fund pay for the food. L. Frampton moved to authorized up to \$500 for hot meals for the Party Heart-y party. L. Passaro seconded, all in favor.

Approval for up to \$1200 for framing – N. Jackson explained that this is to frame the pictures that they purchased from the Flag Pole Photographers. She looked at custom framing and that would be several thousand dollars. They found glass frames for all under \$1100. L. Frampton moved to approve up to \$1200 to cover the costs of the frames. L. Levitte seconded, all in favor.

Member comments – A. Rothstein reported that two alternates were moved up to regular member spots which leaves two open alternate position open on the commission.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachment A

Public Comments by Curt Symes to Newtown COA Mtg. - Jan. 24, 2022 (3 min.)

Curt Symes - COA Commission Member for 11 years from 2011 to 2022 and Past Chair for 6 years from 2012 to 2018.

As I missed the December meeting (my last official Commission meeting) due to Influenza and Pneumonia, I wanted to take this opportunity to say that the past 11 years on the COA with 6 years, serving as Chair, were both an honor and learning experience in advocating for, lobbying on behalf of and representing the Seniors of Newtown.

Helping the First Selectman, Legislative Council, Finance Commission, Economic Development, Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education to better understand Newtown Seniors Needs was both an honor and a formidable challenge over these years.

However, the achievements of justifying and securing funding for the construction of the new Newtown Senior Center with significantly expanded Senior Programs, helping to establish the Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) and Senior participation in the Cultural Arts Commission - annual Newtown Arts Festival have been heart-warming and immensely, personally rewarding.

Finally, the collaboration with and mutual support of the Parks & Rec Department, New Community Center, NYA Sports & Fitness and Newtown Continuing Education in support of expanded Senior Exercise and Wellness Programs, like Silver Sneakers, Senior Swim Programs, Senior Education, etc. has been exemplary. In addition, the emergence of the expanded C. H. Booth Library Senior Programs, including the new Community Conversations, have been very well received.

In conclusion, of the 10 major Senior Issues that Newtown was facing back in 2011 when I was first appointed to the Commission, all but the FFH Senior Affordable Housing and Expanded Senior Transportation have been fully addressed. The ongoing AARP (Newtown) Livable Community Initiative, embarked upon in 2017, will help to drive these activities to completion as Newtown goes forward.

I now leave a revitalized COA and Senior Center in the capable hands of my Newtown Senior colleagues and FONS volunteers, led by the highly motivated Director of Human Services, Natalie Jackson, and her Assistants, Judy Thomas and Jenn Faircloth; and the FONS Board of Directors and members who have very successfully concentrated on Senior Socialization, Senior Grants pursuits and Senior Chore Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Symes, Professional Senior Advisor

36 Lake Rd. Newtown CT

(efile: Ntn. COA Public Comments CSymes)



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: January 24, 2022

Hello Members of the COA,

As we kick off 2022 there are several key updates and highlights to share:

Winter Aid Programs:

The Salvation Army bell ringing effort occurred on: December 10, 11, 17, & 18. The funds raised help DHS provide emergency assistance to residents throughout the year. Aid many include housing, food, heat, emergency repair, or basic needs. The bell ringing effort collected over \$7,300 and with additional donations made to SA over \$8,900 was collected. This year 24 "first time ringers" came forward to join the effort. This year DHS has assisted over 80 households through SA funds, many of which were senior households or multigenerational homes where a senior was supported.

Energy Assistance applications continue. DHS began processing applications in September 2021 for this season and to date have completed 136 applications, up by 30 applications at this time last year. This federally funded program through CT DSS provides home heating assistance to residents struggling to pay their utility bills. Residents who qualify for this aid can reach out to Jackie or Alyssa at 203-270-4330 to complete their application. Alternatively, some Newtown residents also apply by going straight to the Community Action Agency in Danbury, which approves all applications in their catchment area.

DHS continues to partner closely with the FAITH Food Pantry to meet food needs in the community. Work with FAITH over the last month included ongoing assistance with weekly deliveries to homebound residents and working with FONS Chore Services and Newtown Department of Public Works to get the incredible amount of items donated through the Jingle Bell Ride effort delivered to the Pantry.

Holiday Celebrations and news from the Senior Center: We enjoyed several celebrations at the Senior Center over the holiday season. In addition to the December holiday events at the Center, including the craft boutiques, holiday open house, and holiday luncheon, the Senior Center and Park and Recreation partnered to host a New Year's celebration on January 4th: *Dance in the New Year, It's 2022*. Thirty-seven Center members and three seniors from the community joined us for lunch and dancing with *Solid Gold Times Two*. It was a fantastic afternoon!

January and February calendars are booked with some exciting presentations and new speakers, along with our regular menu of health & wellness classes and daily programs. We are thrilled to see so many members in the facility each day, enjoying classes and events. We continue to restrict event size to allow for socially distancing. While there is not currently a mask mandate in Town we encourage all members and guests to wear a mask while participating indoors at the Center.

Note: we currently have 606 active memberships at the Center, of which 527 are Newtown residents and 79 members joining us from surrounding towns. Since the new membership year started July 1, of the 606 204 are first time new memberships.

Transportation Efforts: As shared in December, our application to the DOT for the 5310 grant was approved. In March the Town will receive a new 10 passenger bus with capacity for 2 wheelchairs. We are also looking to include a replacement 16 passenger bus in proposed use of the American Rescue Plan funds. The Department has also created a resource list for seniors in need of transportation.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie

Natalie Jackson, LCSW

Director, Newtown Human Services

People that were active between 12/20/2021 and 01/21/2022

Age Range as of 01/21/2022	Count	Percent
Ages 55-59	23	1.7%
Ages 60-64	90	6.7%
Ages 65-69	222	16.4%
Ages 70-74	268	19.8%
Ages 75-79	275	20.3%
Ages 80-84	212	15.7%
Ages Below 55	10	0.7%
Ages Over 85	251	18.6%
Unknown	3	0.2%
Totals	1354	100%
City/Town	Count	Percent
In Town	1140	84.3%
Out of Town	212	15.7%
Totals	1352	100%

Current Membership:

Resident	527
Non-resident	79
Total	606

Renewals	402
New-members	204

Event Occurrences from 12/20/2021 to 01/21/2022

Category	Event	# of Events	Hours Scheduled	Unduplicated	Zoom Avg
F - Class/Workshop					
	Art Class	5	10	11	NA
	Computers	6	6	3	NA
	Knitting	3	3	11	NA
	Spanish	3	3	5	NA
	Total	17	22	29	
F - Health Screenings					
	Blood Pressure	1	2	0	
	Total	1	2	0	
F - Health/Fitness					
	Broadway Burn	3	3	17	8
	Chair Pilates	4	4	11	not reported
	Chair Yoga	3	3	18	11
	Deep Stretch	4	4	9	not reported
	Flex, Fit & Tone	5	5	31	1
	Floor Yoga	8	8	15	not reported
	Line/Country Dancing	5	5	17	NA
	Move and Groove	4	4	7	not reported
	Tai Chi	4	4	18	not reported
	Zumba	4	4	15	5
	Total	44	44	77	
F - Nutrition					
	Daily Lunch	1	1	9	NA
	Total	1	1	9	
F - Rec./Entertain					
	Billiards	23	23	15	NA
	Catch Phrase	4	4	0	NA
	Total	27	27	15	
F - Social Activity/Event					
	Crafts	16	32	4	NA
	Lunch and Learn	2	2	33	NA
	Ping Pong	4	4	2	NA
	Poker	5	15	8	NA
	Tours with Judy and Jen	1	1	16	NA
	Total	28	54	56	
F - Socializing					
	Socializing & Just Visiting	25	225	23	NA
	Total	25	225	23	
F - Special Events					
	New Years Celebration	1	3	32	NA
	Speaker	6	6	33	NA
	Total	7	9	52	
F - Special Groups					
	Coffee & Conversation	0	0	0	NA
	Womens Discussion Group	4	52	7	NA
	Total	5	53	11	
P - Social Activity/Event					
	Mens Breakfast	1	2	0	NA
	Total	1	2	0	
	Grand Totals	156	439	170	

Event Statistics from 12/20/2021 to 01/21/2022

Category	Duplicated	Unduplicated
F - Class/Workshop	61	29
F - Health/Fitness	443	83
F - Nutrition	9	9
F - Rec./Entertain	82	15
F - Social Activity/Event	121	56
F - Socializing	42	23
F - Special Events	89	58
F - Special Groups	17	12
Total Event Signins	864	170

Attachment C

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		
8/18/2021	Donation from J. Albanesi for flowers for Dan & Anna Wiedemann event- 200-31		200.00		40,448.02
					40,648.02
9/2/2021	Ck #46532- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for thank you dinner for crafters	(279.49)			
9/16/2021	Ck #46747-John Voket-Grandparent Sock Hop	(150.00)			40,368.53
9/22/2021	Bazaar -Donation 220-15		218.50		40,218.53
9/28/2021	Aug P-Card- Caraluzzi's- Flowers for Anna Wiedemann event	(200.00)			40,437.03
					40,237.03
10/20/2021	Bazaar-Donation 220-18				
10/29/2021	Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust- 200-91		200.00		40,437.03
10/31/2021	Sept- P-Card- Amazon- Speaker refreshments-L. Passaro	(29.12)		705.75	41,142.78
					41,113.66
11/4/2021	Ck #47332- Planters Choice- Red Maple Tree- for recognition for those who died from suicide	(567.00)			
11/9/2021	Bazaar- Donation 220-19		190.00		40,546.66
11/24/2021	Bazaar- Donation 220-22		579.00		40,736.66
11/30/2021	Oct- P-Cards- The RD Store- Dishes for Senior Center	(676.62)			41,315.66
					40,639.04
12/1/2021	Ck #47661- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for Bob Sharpe Plaque	(15.95)			
12/16/2021	Donation-Bazaar 220-23				40,623.09
12/16/2021	Donation- Archdeacon Family Foundation 220-24		1,159.75		41,782.84
12/31/2021	Qtrly Distribution- End of Year - Knotts Fund 200-153A		5,000.00		46,782.84
				185.80	46,968.64
	Less unspent Approvals				
	Sr lunch balance				(201.87)
	Ceramic supplies				(225.00)
	New Smart TV				(2,500.00)
	Available balance				\$ 44,041.77