

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 16,, 2022  
Newtown Municipal Building, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470  
Called to order at 4:05pm

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

**Present:** Anne Rothstein, Claire Theune, Larry Passaro, Tricia Gogliettino, LeReine Frampton, Nicole Camporeale, Bill Darrin, Barbara Bloom (4:34pm) **Present via Zoom:**, Lia Levitt, Xiao Han

**Absent:** Joanne Albanesi, Judit Destefano

**Also Present:** – Director of Human services Natalie Jackson (via Zoom) and Director of Nunnawauk Meadows Mary Salley

**Public Comments** – None

**Minutes** – L. Frampton moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2022 meeting. C. Theune seconded, all in favor.

**Chair Report** – A moment of Silence was held for Ruby Ryles who was a member of the commission for many years and had pass away. Members also said a few words about Ruby and the work she has done for the seniors and how active she was in life. C. Symes sent an email with his tribute (attachment A).

A. Rothstein thanked L. Frampton for her lunch last week. L. Frampton reported that the next lunch will be June 20<sup>th</sup> and the menu will be honoring men because it is the day after father's day.

**Vice Chair Report** – No report

**Director of Human Services** – N. Jackson's report is attached (attachment B).

**Treasurer's Report**– L. Passaro reviewed the treasurer's report (attachment C). N. Jackson reported that the pool table cost was \$200 more than approved at the last meeting. L. Frampton moved to increase the approved amount to purchase the pool table and delivery from \$2,300 to \$2,500. B. Darrin seconded, all in favor.

L. Frampton moved to approve the Treasurer's report and send to audit. C. Theune seconded, all in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Discussion of continued Zoom availability* – A. Rothstein reported that she spoke with the First Selectman and he explained that all town meetings are in person, not virtual. Some members explained how difficult it is to make the meeting at 4pm because of work and others are out of town for a few months a year. Some also said when they joined they were told that remote attendance was an option. A. Rothstein will get clarification from the First Selectman as to what their options are.

*Request for a new bingo set* – B. Bloomed moved to spend up to \$75 for a new bingo set. L. Frampton seconded, all in favor.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Arlene Miles, Clerk



Attachment A

Arlene Miles <arlene.miles@newtown-ct.gov>

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## Ruby Ryles, Ntn. COA Commissioner Tribute

1 message

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curtsymes@aol.com <curtsymes@aol.com>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 3:41 PM

Reply-To: curtsymes@aol.com

To: arlene.miles@newtown-ct.gov, arothstein@aol.com

Cc: natalie.jackson@newtown-ct.gov

For Submission to COA Meeting Minutes - 5/16/22

Professional & Personal Sentiments about Ruby Ryles dedication to the Seniors of Newtown , the Commission on Aging and her Family and Friends  
by Curt Symes, 2011-2022 and Chair 2012-2016

Ruby was a very caring and compassionate Senior, who personified what it truly meant to be a Senior and Caregiver helping her family, friends and outreach to both her secular community, like the COA, in Newtown and religious community in Danbury.

Both she and her husband, Jules Martin, volunteered for Senior work on the yearly Newtown Arts Festival - COA/FONS/Sr. Ctr. Booth and helped to open people's eyes on volunteerism.

I got to know Ruby well as we collaborated on various Senior initiatives to enrich people's lives both here in Newtown and beyond.

She will certainly be missed.

God Bless!



## 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 16, 2022

Hello Members of the COA,

On behalf of the Human Services team and the Town I would like to extend our deepest condolences to Ruby Ryles' family. Ruby's obituary can be read here, <https://www.newtownbee.com/05102022/ruby-l-ryles-martin/>. She was a woman of incredible accomplishments and passion. I know her presence on the COA will be very missed.

#### HUMAN SERVICES AID & PROGRAMS

**Energy Assistance:** The EA benefit deadline was extended this year through the month of May. With the increased cost of energy this is helpful to many residents who had applied and qualified for the aid. This season the Department completed 152 applications, an increase of over 30 from the prior year. In addition to being able to complete the application through our Town office residents do also have the ability to complete their application at Community Action in Danbury. As a result we do not have the complete number of households receiving the benefit this year, but it is clear to see that with increasing costs and the impacts of COVID usage of the program has increased.

**Renters Rebate:** The 2022 program opened on April 1<sup>st</sup>. CT State law provides a reimbursement program for renters who are 65+ or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible. Last year the Department completed 81 applications. This year 21 have been completed to date. The program runs from April through October.

As we are seeing rising costs across the board requests for financial assistance are increasing. DHS appreciates the support of numerous community partners, including the Newtown Fund and the Salvation Army. Their aid continues to allow us to help those most in need.

#### SENIOR CENTER UPDATES:

**Memberships:** Our total number of members for the 22/23 year is 693, 294 of which were first time members. We have begun our membership campaign for the 23/24 year. Any brand-new member coming in at this point receives the remainder of this year, in addition to their year membership from July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. We already have 17 first time members registered for the 23/24 year.

**Meal Program:** The grant funding to allow us subsidize to cost of the meal program for members officially began May 1. With this funding the \$8.00 meal is only a \$3.00 cost to members. In May we increased our reservation capacity to 15 and have "sold out" every meal. We will continue to grow the program in size and days in the coming months. The feedback on the quality and taste of the meals have been overwhelmingly positive. We believe that despite the challenges that going "off the beaten path" to establish a new program presented it was well worth the wait!

**Facility Update:** The dishwasher has been delivered and installation has begun (it requires some plumbing and electrical work but is underway)! We are looking forward to being able to use the dishware that a donation to COA allowed us to purchase. The dishwasher will allow us to meet health code for sanitizing so we can get rid of the paper plates and plastic utensils for our meal program.

**ARP Money to Newtown:** There have been some exciting approvals for us for the American Rescue Plan funds. The committee approved \$16K for the installation of handicap buttons for three doors in the Senior Center and \$90K for the replacement of the 16-passenger van. More to come on the timing of these!

Respectfully submitted,

*Natalie*

Natalie Jackson, LCSW

Director, Newtown Human Services

**People that were active between 04/18/2022 and 05/10/2022**

<b>Age Range as of 05/10/2022</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Ages 55-59	22	1.5%
Ages 60-64	92	6.4%
Ages 65-69	227	15.9%
Ages 70-74	282	19.7%
Ages 75-79	303	21.2%
Ages 80-84	222	15.5%
Ages Below 55	11	0.8%
Ages Over 85	270	18.9%
Unknown	3	0.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1432</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>City/Town</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
In Town	1202	84.1%
Out of Town	228	15.9%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Totals for July 2021- May 2022**

<b>Resident</b>	603
<b>Non-Resident</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Total</b>	693

**New Memberships for July 2021-May 2022**

264

**Memberships for 2022-2023**

Resident	16
<b>Non-Resident</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	19

**New Memberships for July 2022-July 2023**

17

Event Occurrences from 04/18/2022 to 05/10/2022

Category	Event	# of Events	Hours Scheduled	Unduplicated
F - Class/Workshop				
	Art Class	4	8	16
	Knitting	3	3	12
	Pottery Class	1	2	8
	SCAN	1	3	6
	Spanish	3	3	6
	Technology with Zack	3	6	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>46</b>
F - Health/Fitness				
	Broadway Burn	3	3	16
	Chair Pilates	3	3	17
	Chair Yoga	3	3	30
	Deep Stretch	3	3	9
	Flex Fit Tone	2	2	22
	Flex, Fit & Tone	2	2	23
	Floor Yoga	7	7	26
	Line/Country Dancing	2	2	14
	Move and Groove	3	3	11
	Parkinson Exercise Class	1	1	3
	Tai Chi	4	4	19
	Walk and Talk	1	1	20
	Zumba	4	4	19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>108</b>
F - Nutrition				
	Daily Lunch	6	36	49
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>49</b>
F - Rec./Entertain				
	Billiards	17	82	11
	Trivia	1	1	22
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>30</b>
F - Social Activity/Event				
	Crafts	10	20	3
	Lunch and Learn	2	2	30
	Ping Pong	4	4	2
	Poker	4	12	10
	Special Event	2	6	68
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>94</b>
F - Socializing				
	Socializing & Just Visiting	17	153	46
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>46</b>
F - Special Events				
	Speaker	6	6	61
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>61</b>
F - Special Groups				
	Coffee & Conversation	1	1	8
	Parkinson Support Group	1	1	6
	Womens Discussion Group	4	4	18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>245</b>

**Event Statistics from 04/18/2022 to 05/10/2022**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Duplicate</b>	<b>Unduplicated</b>
F - Class/Workshop	81	48
F - Health/Fitness	512	113
F - Nutrition	105	49
F - Rec./Entertain	91	31
F - Social Activity/Event	169	99
F - Socializing	92	46
F - Special Events	99	67
F - Special Groups	59	30
<b>Total Event Signins</b>	<b>1208</b>	<b>245</b>

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
8/11/2021	Donation for Suicide Prevention- Archdeacon Family Foundation		525.00		39,923.02
8/18/2021	Donation from J. Albanesi for flowers for Dan & Anna Wiedemann event- 200-31		200.00		40,448.02
9/2/2021	Ck #46532- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for thank you dinner for crafters	(279.49)			40,648.02
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
10/20/2021	Bazaar-Donation 220-18				40,237.03
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
11/4/2021	Ck #47332- Planters Choice- Red Maple Tree- for recognition for those who died from suicide	(567.00)			41,113.66
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
12/1/2021	Ck #47661- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for Bob Sharpe Plaque	(15.95)			40,639.04
12/16/2021	Donation-Bazaar 220-23		1,159.75		40,623.09
12/16/2021	Donation- Archdeacon Family Foundation 220-24		5,000.00		41,782.84
12/31/2021	Qtrly Distribution- End of Year - Knotts Fund 200-153A			185.80	46,782.84
					46,968.64

1/25/2022	Qtrly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-172			767.00	47,735.64
2/10/2022	Ck #48513- Newtown Community Center- Senior Pottery Class				
2/18/2022	Jan P-Card- Frames for artwork for Senior Center	(250.00)			47,485.64
2/18/2022	Jan P-Card- Large Screen TV & wall mount	(1,095.06)			46,390.58
2/22/2022	Donation- Bazaar	(2,260.96)	652.50		44,129.62
					44,782.12
3/31/2022	Feb P-Card- My Place- Senior Lunch for Valentines Day				
3/31/2022	Donations-Bazaar	(466.97)	155.00		44,315.15
					44,470.15
4/20/2022	Donations- Bazaar				
4/28/2022	Ck #49526- Ralph Corbo- Pool Table*		110.00		44,580.15
4/29/2022	Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-287	(2,500.00)		767.00	42,080.15
					42,847.15
5/5/2022	Ck #49633- Newtown Community Center- Pottery Class	(300.00)			42,547.15
	Less unspent approvals				
	Crafters Lunch				250.00
	Speaker lunches & Snacks				1,000.00
					<u>\$ 41,297.15</u>

\* \$2300 was approved for pool table