

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
Special Meeting
Monday, November 16, 2020
Called to order at 3:00pm

NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

Present: Curt Symes, Barbara Bloom Via Teleconference: Anna Wiedemann, LeReine Frampton, Joanne Albanesi, Claire Theune, Larry Passaro, Anne Rothstein, John Boccuzzi, Ruby Ryles

Absent: Bob Edwards, Cris Carvalho Fadus

Also Present: Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, via teleconference: Kaki Taylor from the CH Booth Library

Public Comment – K. Taylor from the CH Booth Library reported that they continues to pursue a drop off or delivery to the home bound. They are having the Turkey Trot virtual and they have the Tuesday giving after that.

Minutes – J. Albanese moved to approve the minutes of the 10/18/20 meeting. L. Passaro seconded, all in favor.

REPORTS

Chair Report (Attachment A) – A. Weidemann reported that a new pool table would have cost about \$5,000 but the one she located are barley used for \$2,500. There is an extra charge of \$300 for sticks and accessories and a \$350 set up fee. She would like everyone to review what she has provided so they can vote on it at a special meeting on November 30. The puzzle table has been more difficult. Lynn from Encore Billiards will looks for the puzzle table they are interested in. A. Wiedemann believes that she may be able to get a price before they meet on 11/30 so they board can vote on both the puzzle table and the pool table.

Vice Chair, Grant - A. Rothstein reported that the Fit for Life Foundation is giving an award for healthy aging. They give awards for up to \$100,000. The application needs to be submitted by 11/23/20 and if they are interested, they come back for more information and possibly a site visit. The award comes in early 2021.

Director of Human Services update– N. Jackson reviewed her report (Attachment B). They reopened the Senior Center doors October 1. Since then there have been 489 participants attend in person. That number does not include zoom classes. They are at 369 renewals and new memberships since then as well. This is a good sign for being in the middle of a pandemic.

First Selectman update – None

Treasurers Report (Attachment C)– There were no disbursements and two collections. One is from the Knotts fund and the other is from the crafters. The crafters deposited another \$305 which brought the total to \$32,659.01 of available funds. A. Wiedemann reported that Saturday was a slow day for the crafters because the pool was closed but they collected over \$300. There was discussion about the \$513.77 which is the unspent approved funds from the hot dog lunch. They discussed different ways to provide meals for seniors. They discussed cold soup that can be heated at home, hot meals that could be in chafing dishes and packaged when they arrive to keep it at the right temperature. N. Jackson reported that the Senior Center is working on a curbside holiday meal as well. C. Symes moved to send the treasurers report to audit. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

Nominating Committee – presentation of slate (Attachment D) – C. Theune moved to approve the slate of officers as presented in Attachment D. J. Albanesi seconded, all in favor.

Subcommittee Reports – No update. The meetings were postponed until 12/15/20.

Having no further business, L. Passaro moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:50pm. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachments: Chair Report, Report from Human Services Director, Treasurers Report and Slate of Office Nominees

Attachment A

COA Chair Report November 16, 2020

I hope everyone is still well. I can't believe we've slid back and COVID is once again on the rise. I will say, I worked the polls and only 3 people refused to wear a mask. I reminded them to stay socially distant and they did, but continue to be amazed at those who won't wear a mask. Please keep yourselves and your families safe. And please reach out if you need anything.

Anne Rothstein will talk about the FFL Award 2021 application that John Boccuzzi forwarded to us. FFL is the Fit for Life Foundation. They are offering a Grant for healthy aging. I will let Anne and John speak more about this at Monday's meeting. The Grant will go through FONS because they are a 501c3 organization.

I don't know if many of you were able to attend the Suicide Prevention Zoom presentation on November 5th? There is a second one on Thursday, November 19th at 6:30. The information for signing up will be attached in my email. The meeting ID for November 19 on Zoom is: 820 1224 8463 and the Passcode is: 862656

I still haven't been able to find an appropriate Puzzle Table. I checked with our Facilities Manager, Jaime, none of his catalogs had anything like that. I have called various Senior Centers – in Brookfield, their director told me that they just use the top of a table. In Shelton, they also didn't have anything like that but suggested I go look at a Billiards shop in Milford. I called and the owner at Encore Billiards, who could not have been more helpful. She has had our resident pool shark, Frank, stop there often ☺ I asked her what she suggested and she led me to the site for a company they use. A new tournament table would be about \$5,000. She said that Tournament tables are what she sells to a lot of Senior Centers. They are sturdy and hold up. She mentioned that she has a client who purchased a number of these from her that he would like to sell a couple of them. So she is going to find out what he would like for the table. We'd need new felt. Delivery and installation would be \$350. She is also going to research puzzle tables. They have a table called Domino table that is also used for Jigsaw puzzles but doesn't have the drawers that slide out, so she will keep looking and get back to me and then I'll report to all of you. We can discuss maybe going the route of a couple of table top ones that we can put a plaque on? There's a table top one here:

https://www.amazon.com/Bits-Pieces-Plateau-Smooth-Fiberboard-Complete/dp/B00NCJ5CB8/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=puzzle+tables&qid=1605283666&sr=8-2-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEzNjZRNjJUSktGRkKzJmVuY3J5cHRIZElkPUeWODg3ODA4MVNFNFVdXQVU3VDIxNSZlbnNyeXB0ZWRBZEIkPUeWVjA3NjQzNDYxMjZCT1BVTE9FJndpZGdldE5hbWU9c3BfYXRmJmFjdGlvbj1jbGlja1JlZGlyZWNOJmRvTm90TG9nQ2xpY2s9dHJ1ZQ==

They also have a tilting one with drawers that slide out the sides, but the ones I saw were meant for one person only.

https://www.amazon.com/Portable-Folding-Tilting-Multifunction-Furniture/dp/B075ZRGWDM/ref=sr_1_49?dchild=1&keywords=puzzle+tables&qid=1605283700&sr=8-49

The crafters have been super busy creating some amazing things for everyday and holiday decor. If you have time, stop by their Pop Up Sale, Saturday, November 14, 2020 at the Community Center. They will

be there from 10am-2pm. There are two more scheduled, one for Saturday, November 21st and Saturday, December 5th.

The subcommittees for the Senior Shopping Guide and the Volunteer Policy did not meet in November. Their next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2020 at the Municipal Center in the Council Chambers. Senior Shopping Guide subcommittee will take place from 11-11:30am and the Volunteer Policy/SC Handbook subcommittee will meet 11:30am-12:00pm.

Stay well and stay safe, Anna



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: November 16, 2020

As we roll through an unprecedented fall season, our work to engage the community's seniors and assist those impacted financially and physically by the pandemic remains at the forefront of our day to day efforts. The Senior Center doors have been open since October 1st. Programs are being offered in a limited capacity indoors, while we continue our virtual programming. With the colder weather setting in our outdoor programs have moved indoors. We remain hyper focused on keeping our facility safe for our members who are coming, and our staff. Reports generated from My Senior Center are attached, highlighting the participation far in in-person programs, including our cutting edge *Drive-In Lunch & Leams*. Our membership drive for 20/21 continues. Memberships continue to come in at a steady pace. To date we have 369 renewals and new memberships.

The Human Services team continues work to meet the needs of all residents, utilizing resources to assist with energy, housing stabilization, mental health referrals, and food security. Residents can contact DHS at 203-270-4330 to discuss any financial aid opportunities and applications.

Key efforts include:

- **Food resources:** including the senior meal program in partnership with CW Resources and the distribution of over 250 food boxes through the Salvation Army. Food boxes have been distributed to FAITH Food Pantry, the Children's Adventure Center, the food pantry at Trinity Church, Nunnawauk Meadows, and individual clients and families in need. In the event a resident is experiencing a lack of food emergency direct support is provided immediately, and connections to FAITH Food Pantry and longer term assistance program are made.
- **Holidays 2020:** Thanksgiving and holiday gift basket programs will continue this year through the partnership and commitment of the Women In Newtown (WIN) and the Newtown Fund. To date we have 71 households registered for Thanksgiving food baskets and approximately 75 households to receive holiday gifts. I expect these numbers will increase prior to the registration deadlines for both programs.
- **Energy Assistance:** this program opened on 8/31. 88 applications have been completed to date. Community Action is taking a greater lead role this year which is decreasing the number of applications directly completed in Newtown.
- **Renter's Rebate:** this program for senior renters, closed 10/1 with 80 applications completed.
- **Home repair for seniors:** in partnership with FONS Chore Shores & Housatonic Habitat's Brushed with Kindness program DHS is helping identify senior residents in need of home repair using financial support from Habitat and FONS.
- **Newtown Helping Hands Shopping and Delivery Service:** for Newtown seniors (age 60+) and others in high-risk groups (currently 7 residents continue to receive service via 8 active volunteers).

Don't forget to come out to one of the upcoming *Senior Center Pop-up Boutiques* hosted at the Newtown Community Center. Support the Newtown Senior Center and see the beautiful crafts made by our crafting crew!

While it will look quite different in 2020, I hope everyone has a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday!

Natalie

Natalie Jackson, LCSW
Director, Newtown Human Services

Event Occurrences from 10/13/2020 to 11/13/2020

Filters:

Site(s): All

Category	Event	# of Events	Hours Scheduled	Total Participants
F - Class/Workshop	Art Class	5	10	27
	Knitting	4	4	4
	Spanish	5	5	2
	Total	14	19	33
F - Health/Fitness	Chair Pilates	5	5	30
	Chair Yoga	5	5	35
	Floor Yoga	5	5	22
	Morning Meditation	5	5	17
	Tai Chi	4	4	20
	Total	24	24	124
F - Nutrition	Curbside Lunch Pick-Up	9	0	89
	Halloween Curbside Lunch	1	1	78
	Total	10	1	167
F - Rec./Entertain	Billiards	16	17	28
	Drive in Lunch and Learn	4	8	104
	Total	20	25	132
F - Social Activity/Event	Crafts	10	20	28
	Ping Pong	5	5	0
	Quilting/Sewing	4	4	5
	Total	21	33	33
F - Socializing	Socializing & Just Visiting	24	216	0
	Total	24	216	0
P - Social Activity/Event	Reserve the Patio	13	13	0
	Total	13	13	0
	Grand Totals	126	331	489*

*** Does not include Zoom Classes**

Zumba 7-12 participants weekly

Floor Yoga 8-13

Chair Yoga 8-13

Broadway Burn 11-15

Coffee and Conversation 6-8

People that were active between 10/13/2020 and 11/13/2020

Filters:

Age: Between 55 and 99

Age Range	Count	Percent
Ages 55-59	17	1.6%
Ages 60-64	76	7.3%
Ages 65-69	197	18.9%
Ages 70-74	224	21.5%
Ages 75-79	200	19.2%
Ages 80-84	150	14.4%
Ages Below 55	9	0.9%
Ages Over 85	168	16.1%
Unknown	2	0.2%
Totals	1043	100%

total memberships:369

resident: 340

non resident:29

Event Statistics from 10/13/2020 to 11/13/2020

Filters:

Age: Between 55 and 99

Category	Duplicate	Unduplicate	Hours
F - Class/Workshop	32	12	59
F - Health/Fitness	121	29	121
F - Nutrition	156	98	132.25
F - Rec./Entertain	118	57	165
F - Social Activity/Event	42	15	73.5
Total Event Signins	469	145	550.75

COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

\$	32,659.01
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**Proposed* Slate of Office Nominees
for the Next Commission on Aging**

Anna WiedemannChairman

Anne RothsteinVice Chairman

Larry PassaroTreasurer

****Interest was expressed by these candidates via email on September 30, 2020.***

**Prepared by Claire Theune, LeReine Frampton, and Bob Edwards, COA
Nominating Committee.**

October 19, 2020