

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING
Special Meeting
Monday, December 21, 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 Via Teleconference: Curt Symes, Barbara Bloom, Anna Wiedemann, LeReine Frampton, Claire Theune, Larry Passaro, Anne Rothstein, John Boccuzzi, Ruby Ryles, Cris Carvalho Fadus

Absent: Bob Edwards, Joanne Albanesi

Also Present Via Teleconference: Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, Ned Simpson, First Selectman Dan Rosenthal

Public Comment – Ned Simpson. 42 Watkins Drive – Encouraged commission members to support CIP funding for the CH Booth Library parking lot upgrades. The current set up is not very user friendly for the mobility challenged. There are many seniors in that situation that don't use the library because of that. He asked the COA to make their voice heard to the LC to make sure the funding stays in the CIP and encourage the Library Trustees to make it a reality.

Minutes – L. Passaro moved to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2020 meeting. B. Bloom seconded, all in favor.

REPORTS

Chair Report (Attachment A) – B. Bloom commented that it will be great to have the puzzle table custom made. They will make exactly what they need and there is a donor that will pay for it.

Vice Chair, Grant – A. Rothstein reported that last month they submitted the grant application. There is another opportunity with the Tufts Health Plan Foundation. They are looking for letters of intent for systems and best practice programs that are working to eliminate barriers that affect older people. This is only open to Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Connecticut.

Director of Human Services update (Attachment B)– N. Jackson reported that they had to do a lot of things differently this year because of Covid 19. They couldn't hold the annual bazaar this year but the crafter held a few pop up boutiques and raised over \$1000 for the gift fund. She also reported that they found out last week as of January 1, the lunches would be suspended because of funding lost to WCAAA. The community members are using it weekly and we don't want it to disappear without an alternative in place. One option is private pay which would be the same provider but instead of having the matching grant funding, we would have to pay per meal which would approximately \$10. They could register everyone for Meals on wheels but they have a long waiting list so it wouldn't solve the immediate problem. C. Symes suggested they submit a letter of interest to Caraluzzi's who is providing food services in other communities.

First Selectman update – First Selectman Rosenthal said that he is proud that the staff and people in town found ways to be creative. Finding ways to reach and connect with people is what it is all about. We still have issues to contend with but he doesn't think a shutdown will make a large difference; the issue seems to be private social settings.

Treasurers Report (Attachment C) – L. Passaro reported that a significant increase was the results from the crafters who collectivity raised \$1736 that went into the gift fund. The only thing that came out of the fund was the printing of the tote bags. The balance in the fund is \$31,105.60. C. Symes moved to send the Treasurers Report to audit. A. Rothstein seconded, all in favor.

Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule – A. Rothstein moved to approve the 2021 meeting schedule (Attachment D). L. Frampton seconded, all in favor.

Having no further business, L. Passaro moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:57pm. C. Symes seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Attachments: Chair Report, Report from Human Services Director, Treasurers Report, 2021 meeting schedule

Attachment A

COA Chair Report December 21, 2020

First off, thank you to John Boccuzzi for his many years serving on COA. I want to wish him continued success with FONS.

JoAnne Albanesi is moving up from Alternate to permanent, to fill John's vacancy.

I have attached the proposed 2021 meeting schedule. We have listed that January and February we will meet at 4pm. This will only happen if we go back to meeting in person. For now with that still not occurring, we will meet via Zoom at 3pm on the dates listed. I also propose changing the months of November and December to 4pm. We can discuss and vote on this at our January 25th meeting. (We are meeting the 4th Monday because of the holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day).

JoAnne Albanesi has found someone who will build a puzzle table! And it will be paid for via an anonymous donor. When I have the sketches, I will share them with everyone.

I bought cookie tins (you've seen them many times – they are called Royal Dansk and are in a blue tin – they've been around forever and are delicious)! from Restaurant Depot, which will be handed out with the holiday lunch and gifts from the Senior Center on December 22nd. I spent just under \$300 which leaves \$200 more for something when we are finally reopened.

Curt Symes mentioned wanting to put signs up throughout town to show our support for the Social-Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion movement. There are a number of organizations in town who are supporting this initiative. I have, though, received emails from COA members expressing that as a COA we don't need to prove to anyone that we do not discriminate against people. They felt that we need to return to our role statement that says "the role of the Newtown Commission on Aging is to research and identify the needs of the Newtown senior population and to develop and coordinate programs to meet those needs". Another email read that it was their personal opinion is "that as a society, we have a lot of work to do, but as the COA and Newtown Seniors, we're good". It'll be on the agenda for next month. In the meantime, I am hoping that Curt, Dan, Natalie and myself can discuss what will be presented at the January 25th meeting. But give it some thought.

Lastly, I received an email from Paul Lundquist – who is the Chair of the Legislative Council. They are beginning to assemble a new Charter Revision Committee. He wanted to check and see if we had anything we wanted changed in the current charter. I don't see anything that needs to be changed, but I wanted input from the members before letting him know if it's okay as is, or if there are any changes. Please let me know via email, but respond individually. Below is what is currently in the Charter:

2-205 Aging, Commission on (a) Summary of General Responsibilities: There shall be a Commission on Aging to advocate for seniors and identify the needs of and coordinate services and programs that support the well-being of Newtown senior residents and act as their agent for other Federal, State or Town boards, commissions, authorities or agencies or local private

groups to carry out programs for senior residents. (b) Membership and Terms: (1) The Commission shall consist of 9 regular members and 3 alternate members. (2) The term of office shall be three years for regular members and two years for alternate members.

This was in the Bee, I found it interesting, because it shows how many opportunities there are out there during the pandemic. I really like how individuals have learned to think outside the box to broaden everyone's knowledge and reach out to people, whether individually or via Zoom. In the article, you'll read that there are many opportunities for educational offerings to be virtual. Whether it's a class offered at a local facility or classes we read about. Our Senior Center does an outstanding job each week of listing the many opportunities for classes, information, recipes, etc. I'm sharing the link with all of you.

<https://www.newtownbee.com/11152020/sandy-hook-professor-leading-maplewood-virtual-university/?q=Sandy%20hook%20professor%20leading%20maplewood%20virtual%20university>

Whatever and however you celebrate the holidays, I wish each and every one of you and your families a peaceful, love filled holiday. And wishes that 2021 will be a better year for all of us and our world.

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: December 21, 2020

The holidays are a busy season for Human Services. The team has been hard at work facilitating holiday basket programs, assisting with increased financial aid requests, and finding ways to engage our seniors in programs that look quite different than they did at this time last year. Through diligent efforts to ensure safety protocols are met we have been able to keep the Newtown Senior Center open for our members. We have been able to continue indoor programming, while increasing our virtual program offerings. Reports generated from My Senior Center are attached, highlighting participation in-person programs, including our *Drive-In Lunch & Learns* and special holiday curbside lunch celebration. The Senior Center crafters were hard at work this holiday season as well. While we could not host our annual Bazaar, the crafters would not be deterred. They organized several "Pop-Up Boutiques" at the Newtown Community Center. They generously donated hours and hours of their Saturdays manning the store. Their efforts were incredibly successful, raising over \$1,000 for the COA Gift Fund.

Despite the pandemic, this year Thanksgiving and holiday gift basket programs were able to continue through the partnership and commitment of the Women In Newtown (WIN) and the Newtown Fund. We had to facilitate these programs differently this year due to COVID 19. While the traditional Thanksgiving dinner pick-up and Holiday Depot Day could not occur it did not stop our community partners from making sure our residents in need had food and gifts this holiday season. Recipients received food and gifts by delivery, directly by their sponsor. While unconventional from the traditional way of doing things both efforts proved a success!

Seventy-nine households received Thanksgiving baskets through efforts coordinated by WIN. Of those households, 48 seniors over the age of 62 and 20 seniors between the ages of 55 and 62 were served. This year FAITH Food Pantry also provided over 90 Thanksgiving meals, significantly up from their numbers last year. With the help of Newtown Helping Hands DHS assisted with delivery of a few of the FAITH Thanksgiving dinners to homebound residents. Through a generous donation by a community member NHH also delivered a delicious Thanksgiving meal from a local restaurant to 4 seniors who were without family this holiday.

On Saturday, December 14th Holiday Gift baskets were delivered to 97 households. This was an increase of 35 households from last year's 62. The Newtown Fund rose to the need, securing enough adopters to meet the increased need and raising an unprecedented amount in donations to provide gift cards to each family- including grocery and gas cards. Statistics including the number of seniors served will be provided in the January COA report.

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.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Holiday Cheer Drive Thru on Tuesday, the 22nd sponsored by the Senior Center, Newtown Parks and Recreation, and the COA!

Happy Holidays!

Natalie

Natalie Jackson, LCSW
Director, Newtown Human Services

People that were active between 11/18/2020 and 12/18/2020
Filters:

Age Range	Count	Percent
Ages 55-59	2	1.5%
Ages 60-64	7	5.3%
Ages 65-69	25	18.9%
Ages 70-74	14	10.6%
Ages 75-79	36	27.3%
Ages 80-84	24	18.2%
Ages Over 85	24	18.2%
Totals	132	100%

Current Membership:

Resident	342
Non-resident	30
Total	372

Event Occurrences from 11/18/2020 to 12/18/2020

Category	Event	# of Events	Hours Scheduled	Unduplicated	Duplicated
F - Class/Workshop	Art Class	4	8	6	18
	Knitting	5	5	0	0
	Spanish	4	4	0	0
	Total	13	17	6	18
F - Health/Fitness	Chair Pilates	4	4	6	17
	Chair Yoga	5	5	8	16
	Floor Yoga	4	4	4	11
	Morning Meditation	4	4	2	7
	Tai Chi	4	4	5	17
	Total	21	21	17	68
F - Nutrition	Curbside Lunch Pick-Up	9	0	11	68
	Total	9	0	11	68
F - Rec./Entertain	Billiards	16	16	5	29
	Drive in Lunch and Learn	2	4	32	40
	Total	18	20	37	69
F - Social Activity/Event	Crafts	9	18	4	33
	Drive in Holiday Celebration	1	2	76	46
	Ping Pong	5	5	0	0
	Quilting/Sewing	4	5	2	6
	Total	19	30	76	115
Grand Totals		109	301	132	270

Zoom Attendance 11/18/20 to 12/18/20

	Total Occurrences	Duplicated
Zumba	5	
Floor Yoga	5	
Broadway Burn	5	
Coffee and Conversation	5	35
Chair Yoga	5	

Event Statistics from 11/18/2020 to 12/18/2020

Category	Duplicated	Unduplicated
F - Class/Workshop	18	6
F - Health/Fitness	69	17
F - Nutrition	57	10
F - Rec./Entertain	68	38
F - Social Activity/Event	129	90
Total Event Signins	341	125

Attachment C

COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	BALANCE
7/1/20	Beginning Balance				31,634.57
7/22/2020	Qtrly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-16			637.00	32,271.57
9/10/2020	Ck #42023- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for Sr. Center Lunch 8/14/20	(206.23)			32,065.34
10/7/2020	Mandatory Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-82			781.30	32,846.64
10/20/2020	Qtrly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-95			637.00	33,483.64
10/31/2020	Bazaar-Donations 220-09		305.00		33,788.64
10/31/2020	Tote Bags- Archdeacon 220-09		434.14		34,222.78
11/23/2020	Bazaar-Donations- 220-11		447.00		34,669.78
12/4/2020	Ck #42817- Diversified Printing Solution- Tote Bags	(434.41)			34,235.37
12/14/2020	Donations- Bazaar- 220-14		700.00		34,935.37
12/14/2020	Donations- Bazaar- 220-15		284.00		35,219.37
Less approved items to be booked:					
	Pool table	(3,550.00)			(3,550.00)
	Sr lunch balance	(513.77)			(513.77)
	Clocks	(50.00)			(50.00)
					<u>\$ 31,105.60</u>

Attachment D

COMMISSION ON AGING
NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER
8 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT 06470

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are held the third Monday of the month

**Meeting time will be 3:00PM until meeting in person resume*

January 25, 2021 – 4:00pm

February 22, 2021 (fourth Monday) – 4:00pm

March 15, 2021 – 5:00pm

April 19, 2021 – 5:00pm

May 17, 2021 – 5:00pm

June 21, 2021 – 5:00pm

July 19, 2021 – 5:00pm

August 23, 2021 – 5:00pm

September 20, 2021 – 5:00pm

October 18, 2021 – 5:00pm

November 22, 2021 – 4:00pm

December 20, 2021 – 4:00pm

January 24, 2022 (fourth Monday) – 4:00pm