

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 15, 2024

Newtown Senior Center

8 Primrose Street Newtown CT 06470

Called to order at 4:00 pm

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

Present: Bill Darrin Barbara Bloom, Patricia Bailey, LeReine Frampton **zoom**, Claire Theune, Anne Rothestein **zoom**, Xiao Han, Patricia Gogliettino, Jack Kitterman, Micheal Stern

Absent: Judit DeStefano, Stephen Riccitelli

Also Present: Director of Human Services Natalie Griffith, Director of Nunnawauk Meadows Mary Salley, 1 member of the public and one member of the press

Public Comment: No public comment.

Minutes: A. Rothestein moved to approve the minutes of the 3/18/24 meeting. W. Darrin seconded, all in favor.

Director of Human Services: N. Griffith conducted a review of her report, discussing the available ARPA funds in our region to assist seniors and disabled residents with transportation challenges through WCAAA. Newtown submitted a grant request of \$85,000 with an aim is to improve current services and increase efficiency by requesting with a multi-approach transportation solution. This plan includes providing rides within town to ease the strain on the Hart Bus system, ensuring its smooth operation. The proposal involves hiring a part-time transportation coordinator to optimize travel options for residents, inform them about available services, and coordinate rides.

FONS member Beverly Bennett-Schaedler initiated NeWtown Rides, a volunteer-based transportation service for Newtown residents, currently operating two days a week. The goal is to enhance transportation options for seniors in Newtown.

- The AARP and WCAAA grants are scheduled to be awarded in May.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report. L Frampton said they paid for the Newtown Senior Centers Shuffle Board Table. \$2888.15 was spent on the table. A. Rothestein moved to approve the treasury report W. Darrin seconded, all in favor.

Old Business: No old business

New business: N. Griffith requested additional funds to install another terminal for checking in Senior Center members. The challenge discussed at the last meeting included the difficulty of scanning all members in the busy foyer during classes, leading to some individuals needing help to bypass the check-in process. It was emphasized how crucial it is to track everyone in the building for safety reasons and to provide accurate reporting. The new terminal would serve as a gateway into the center, costing \$4,800. This expense was not included in N. Griffith's budget, along with an additional \$300 for an annual fee. The operating cost of \$1,800 per year is within her budget.

Members posed strategies and alternatives before investing in a second kiosk. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

Members Comments: Jack Kitterman introduced himself as the new alternate. Strategic planning will be put on the next agenda.

Having no further business. the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m. B. Bloom motioned to adjourn, P. Bailey seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Devereaux.

Clerk Attachments: Report from Director of Human Services and Treasurer's Report



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: April 15, 2024

Hello members of the COA,

Thank you for your support of our submission of the grant to WCAAA for transportation funds through ARPA dollars. The Town did submit a request for \$85k. Funds would help us enhance transportation options for seniors and those with disabilities, with the goal of coordinating safe, easy to use, affordable, and efficient transportation which will support aging in place initiatives and combat isolation.

Newtown has long been in discussions concerning transportation for older citizens and the challenges we face in meeting the needs. Newtown lacks a fixed route transportation system or taxi service, has inconsistent coverage through share ride services, and a dial-a-ride service with limitations on availability, coverage, and destinations. Previously FISH, the volunteer ride program, helped meet the need for transportation for medical appointments but they did not return to service after COVID. Newtown is a "small town" but spans 38,644 acres or 60.38 square miles, making it the fifth largest town, area-wise, in the state. This further compounds transportation challenges. Additionally, the majority of medical care needing to be accessed by our seniors is located out of town, straining current transportation resources due to the length of the ride.

While the Newtown Department of Human Services currently responds to transportation requests and challenges, this project would greatly increase the Department's ability to meet the needs and challenges effectively and efficiently. Grant funds will allow the Town of Newtown/Department of Human Services to economically augment the current service options to include Town provided rides and to conduct critical outreach to the senior community to connect residents to the various transportation resources. Rides will be scheduled in a timely manner by personalized service under Human Services, with door to door and door through door services being arranged when needed.

If we receive grant funds a part-time transportation coordinator position will be established. Rides using town drivers and vehicles, volunteers, SweetHART dial-a-ride bus service, ride services (Uber and Lyft), Be Driven LLC medical transport service, taxi and contracted car services will be scheduled based on need and individual circumstance. Grant funding will support the delivery of these services and supplement rider fares when needed based on financial need and other factors as determined by the Department of Human Services.

The town of Newtown has an excellent relationship with both HARTransit (contracted dial-a-ride service) and Be Driven LLC (specialized medical transport service). The Human Services Department often works in cooperation with out of town taxi services and Uber and Lyft in situations where no other option exists. Because there are no taxi services located in Newtown and ride programs such as Lyft and Uber do not have concentrated local drivers, services are inconsistent and costly due to service originating outside of town.

The Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) recently began a volunteer ride program, Newtown Rides, offering local rides on a limited basis. Newtown Rides is offering a much needed local ride service, bringing Newtown residents to shopping, social events, doctor appointments, visits with friends or any mobility within Newtown for any reason. Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) currently has 24 volunteer drivers offering rides during two days per week. This pilot program will expand over time to providing rides 7 days per week including evening events and eventually will expand to provide roundtrip services to surrounding towns not covered by HARTransit. **(see flyer attached)**

In a recent conversation with HARTransit the growing challenges of providing service in Newtown were highlighted including: the increasing strain on service due to the heavy demands of transporting the younger disabled population out of town to work (due to the changing model of Ability Beyond no longer providing transport for their clients); challenges getting drivers;

equipment; and even parts, all while struggling to meet the accelerated costs of operating a transportation system (many nearly tripling in recent years).

By coordinating local service from Newtown to surrounding towns, and increasing local ridership options within town, our efforts will help remove the growing strain on the existing dial-a-ride service provided by HARtransit. A small investment will return continued value as we bring together all of the available transportation resources.

Again thank you for your support of this endeavor and a special thank you to John Boccuzzi, President of Friends of Newtown Seniors, and Anne Rothstein for their efforts in pulling together what I believe is a strong application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Natalie Griffith, LCSW

Director, Newtown Human Services

Scenes from the Newtown Senior Spring Fling

In partnership with Newtown Parks & Recreation and catered by the NHS Culinary Program

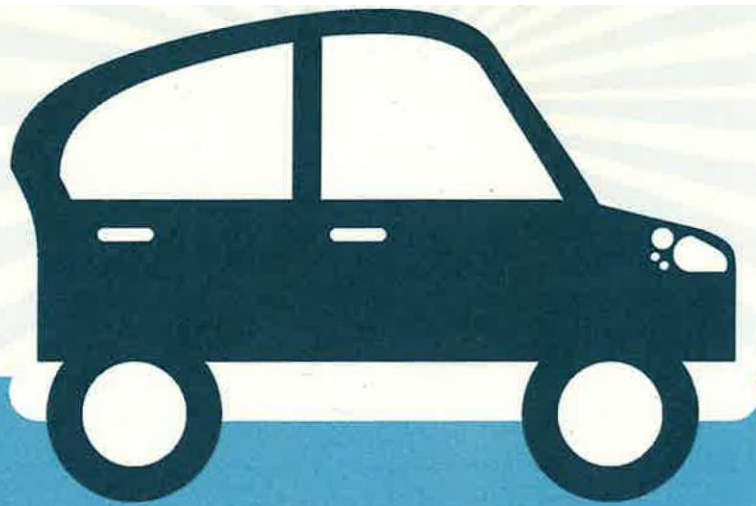
Over 60 seniors dining and dancing the evening away!



FOR 55 PLUS SENIORS

Newtown Rides

Are you home alone? Unable to drive or don't have a car?



The Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) volunteer drivers are available to pick you up and take you to any "Newtown" location you wish to visit within a 2-hour time frame. Whether it's the grocery store, library, bank, having your hair done, visiting the Senior Center, or just out to lunch, Newtown Rides is here to assist you.

Our volunteers are available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 12 noon and/or 12 noon until 2 pm.

To arrange a day out please call three days in advance and a coordinator will return your call.

Friends of Newtown Seniors are looking forward to seeing you!
For more information or to book your special day
please call and leave a message

203-430-0633

People that were active between 03/12/2024 and 04/12/2024

Age Range as of 04/12/2024	Count	Percent
Ages 55-59	1	3.0%
Ages 60-64	4	12.1%
Ages 65-69	9	27.3%
Ages 70-74	5	15.2%
Ages 75-79	3	9.1%
Ages 80-84	6	18.2%
Ages Below 55	1	3.0%
Ages Over 85	4	12.1%
Totals	33	100%
City/Town	Count	Percent
In Town	26	78.8%
Out of Town	7	21.2%
Totals	33	100%

Curent Members

Resident	614
Non Resident	116
Total	730

Event Occurrences from 0311212024 to 0411212024

Filters:

Site(s):

All

Category	Event	#of Events	Hours Scheduled	Unduplicated
F - Class/Workshop				
		5	5	10
	Art Class (Tuesday 10:00 AM)	5	10	23
	Knitting	4	4	25
	Sewing Crew	4	6	5
	Spanish Class (Thursday 10:30 AM)	5	5	13
	Total	23	30	66
F - Health/Fitness				
	Broadway Bum (Friday 10:30 AM)	4	4	23
	Chair Pilates (Thursday 9:00 AM)	5	5	27
	Chair Yoga A (Monday 2:30PM)	6	6	31
	Chair Yoga B (Thursday 1:00PM)	5	5	44
	Deep Stretch (Wednesday 9:00 AM)	4	4	28
	Fit and Fabulous	5	5	34
	Flex, Fit & Tone (Tuesday 10:00)	5	5	33
	Floor Yoga	9	9	40
	Kevins Line Dance Exercise (Thursday 10:30AM)	5	5	29
	Line/Country Dancing (Wednesday 10:30)	5	5	21
	Move and Groove	5	5	27
	Pilabolus	5	5	26
	Tai Chi (Monday 10:00AM)	4	4	24
	Zumba (Monday 1:00 PM)	4	4	25
	Total	71	71	199
F- Nutrition				
	Daily Lunch	10	10	38
	Total	10	10	38
F - Rec./Entertain				
	Billards Tournament (Lunch)	1	3.92	36
	Billiards	23	161	20
	Total	24	164.92	43
F - Social Activity/Event				
	Lunch and Learn	2	2	37
	Matts Ballroom	5	5	14
	Pinochle	4	8	3
	Poker	5	15	12
	Special Event BINGO	1	1	17
	Special Event- Churchill village	1	2	11
	Total	18	33	66
F - Socializing				
	Socializing & Just Visiting	24	204.4	44
	Total	24	204.4	44
F- Special Events				
		1	2	15
	Java With Jeff First Selectman	1	1	20
	Speaker	2	2	25
	Speaker AM	2	14	19
	ST. Patties Day Party	1	2	58
	Total	7	21	85
F - Special Groups				
	Parkinson Support Group		1	1
	Silver Tones	3	4.5	13
	Speaker 1:OOPM	1	1.67	13
	Speaker 2	4	4	24
	Speaker 2 United Veterans Assistance	1	1	17
	Spring Fling	1	35	33
	Womens Discussion Group Chicken Soup for the Sc	4	4	16
	Total	15	19.67	72
P - Health Screenings				
	Blood Pressure Screening (Thursday 9:30 AM)		2	6
	Total		2	6
P - Health/Fitness				
	CPR Class	1	1.5	7
	Power Hour	5	5	22
P - Special Events				
	Solar Eclipse Party		1.75	25
	Total		1.75	25
P- Special Groups				
	Art With Carol		1.33	10
	Total		1.33	10
P- Trips				
	Tours		14	4
	Total		14	4
	Grand Totals	203	582.57	356

Event Statistics from 03/12/2024 to 04/12/2024

Category	Duplicated	Unduplicated	60 and Over Guests	Under 60 (Hours		
F - Class/Workshop	19	6	0	0	26	
F - Health/Fitness	56	12	0	0	56	
F- Nutrition	19	12	0	0	19	
F - Rec./Entertain	34	7	0	0	219.5	
F - Social Activity/Event	14	7	0	0	20	
F - Socializing	32	8	0	0	272.53	
F - Special Events	15	9	0	0	47	
F - Special Groups	21	7	0	0	35.33	
P - Health/Fitness	1	1	0	0	1	
P - Off Site Excursions	2	2	0	0	6	
P - Special Events	3	3	0	0	5.25	
P- Trips	1	1	0	0	14	
Total Event Signins	217	33	0	0	721.61	

COAISENIOR 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 DisribuonKnotts Trust2 00-16			705.75	40,044.40
7/30/2021	Ck #45928Anna Wiedemann-Reim for Gift Card for Zach Macey & Ice Cream	(121.38)			39,923.02
8/11/2021	Donation for Suicide Prevention- Archdeacon Family Foundation		525.00		40,448.02
8/18/2021	Donation from J. Albanasi for flowers for Dan & Anna Wiedemann event- 200-31		200.00		40,648.02
9/2/2021	Ck #46532- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for thank you dinner for crafters	(279.49)			40,368.53
9/16/2021	Ck #46747-John Voket-Grandparent Sock Hop	(150.00)			40,218.53
9/22/2021	Bazaar-Donation 220-15		218.50		40,437.03
9/28/2021	Aug P-Card- Caraluzzi's- Flowers for Anna Wiedemann event	(200.00)			40,237.03
10/20/2021	Bazaar-Donation 220-18		200.00		40,437.03
10/29/2021	Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust- 200-91			705.75	41,142.78
10/31/2021	Sept- P-Card- Amazon- Speaker refreshments-L. Passaro	(29.12)			41,113.66
11/4/2021	Ck #47332- Planters Choice- Red Maple Tree- for recognition for those who died from suicide	(567.00)			40,546.66
11/9/2021	Bazaar- Donation 220-19		190.00		40,736.66
11/24/2021	Bazaar- Donation 22Q-22		579.00		41,315.66
11/30/2021	Oct- P-Cards- The RD Store- Dishes for Senior Center	(676.62)			40,639.04
12/11/2021	Ck #47661- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for Bob Sharpe Plaque	(15.95)			40,623.09
12/16/2021	Donation-Bazaar 220-23		1,159.75		41,782.84
12/16/2021	Donation- Archdeacon Family Foundation 220-24		5,000.00		46,782.84
12/31/2021	Qtrly Distribution- End of Year- Knotts Fund 200-153A			185.80	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	(250.00)			47,485.64
2/18/2022	Jan P-Card- Frames for artwork for Senior Center	(1,095.06)			46,390.58
2/18/2022	Jan P-Card- Large Screen TV & wall mount	(2,260.96)			44,129.62
2/22/2022	Donation- Bazaar		652.50		44,782.12
3/31/2022	Feb P-Card- My Place- Senior Lunch for Valentines Day	(466.97)			44,315.15
3/31/2022	Donations-Bazaar		155.00		44,470.15
4/20/2022	Donations- Bazaar		110.00		44,580.15
4/28/2022	Ck #49526- Ralph Corbo- Pool Tabla	(2,500.00)			42,080.15
4/29/2022	Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-287			767.00	42,847.15
5/15/2022	Ck #49633- Newtown Community Center- Pottery Class	(300.00)			42,547.15
5/20/2022	April P-Card- Stop & Shop- Refreshments for speaker at Senior Center	(26.15)			42,521.00
5/20/2022	April P-Card- The Villa- Thank you dinner for Senior Canter Grafters	(234.44)			42,286.56
6/24/2022	May P-Card- Big Y- Ice Cream Toppings- Senior Center Presentation	(17.09)			42,269.47
6/24/2022	May P-Card- Holy Cow- Ice Cream Cups- Senior Center Presentation	(138.00)			42,131.47

GOA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/O	CIR	FRANKKNOTIS TRUST FUND	BALANCE
7/1/22	Beginning Balance				42,131.47
7/21/22	Lions Bleeker- Pizza for Presentation Program by Zack & Larry	(170.74)			41,960.73
7/25/22	July P-Card- Holy Cow-Ice Cream for Trivia with Zack & Larry	(56.35)			41,904.38
7/25/22	July P-Gard- Amazon- Replacement bingo cards	(44.97)			41,859.41
7/25/22	July P-Gard- Amazon- Bingo set & display Board	(92.05)			41,767.36
8/2/2022	Qtrly Disribution Knotts Trust200-12			767.00	42,534.36
10/7/2022	Ck #51758- Newlown Comm. Center- Senior Pottery Class	(225.00)			42,309.36
10/28/2022	Qlrly Distribution Knotts Trust200-77			767.00	43,076.36
10/31/2022	Deficiency payment for KnoUs Trust 12/31/21 200-85			650.10	43,726.46
12/23/2022	Donation- Bazaar 220-15		1,229.00		44,955.46
12/31/2022	Nov P-Gard- Lion's Bleeker- Pizza Lunch-Senior Center	(45.52)			44,909.94
1/12/2023	Ck #52986- Bee Publishing-craft fair ads	(121.60)			44,788.34
1/18/2023	Donation-In memory of Larry Passaro- 220-15A		1,000.00		45,788.34
1/30/2023	Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-160			590.00	46,378.34
1/31/2023	Dec P-Gard- Restaurant Depot- Food for Holiday party	(250.00)			46,128.34
1/31/2023	Dec P-Gard- Lions Bleeker-Lunches for craft boutique volunteers	(51.61)			46,076.73
1/31/2023	Donation-In memory of Larry Passaro- 220-22		100.00		46,176.73
3/23/2023	Feb P-Card- Uline- Art Tables and chair dolly **	(863.82)			45,312.91
3/31/2023	Donation- Bazaar 220-40		526.00		45,838.91
4/21/2023	March P-Card- Bamwood- Lunches for craft volunteers	(174.93)			45,663.96
4/30/2023	Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-238			590.00	46,253.96
6/27/2023	Craft pop-up sale 220-61		97.00		46,350.98
over amount approved.					

CONSENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	BALANCE
7/1/23	Beginning Balance				46,350.98
7/25/2023	Knotts Trust 12-31-22 Deficiency w/d- 200-22			30.50	46,381.48
7/25/2023	Qrtly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-33			590.00	46,971.48
8/31/2023	Donation-Anne Rothstein- 220-9		2,000.00		48,971.48
10/27/2023	Qrtly Distribution Knotts Trust200-96			590.00	49,561.48
2/20/2024	Qrtly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-177			656.25	50,217.73
2/20/2024	Donation- Anne Rothstein 220-179		2,000.00		52,217.73
3/31/2024	Feb P-Card- Home Depot- Shuffle Board Table	(2,888.15)			49,329.58