

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 17, 2017 5:00 pm
Newtown Senior Center
14 Riverside Road
Sandy Hook, CT 06482**

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

The Commission on Aging held a regular on Monday, April 17, 2017 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT.

Call to order: 5:00 pm.

Present: Anna Wiedemann, Curt Symes, Barbara Bloom, John Boccuzzi, George Guidera, Margaret Imbro, Anne Rothstein, Ruby Ryles, Claire Theune.

Absent: Mae Schmidle, LeReine Frampton.

Also Present: Marilyn Place, Ann LoBosco, Officer Maryhelen McCarthy, 5 members of the public, 1 press.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Karin Aurelia – Ms. Aurelia understands that the treasurer is leaving and she requested if it would be possible to have an even split of Democrat and Republican members on the commission.

Maureen Will – Ms. Will responded to the question regarding cell phones dialing 911, the call will go to center state police and will get to Connecticut 911 (including out of state callers) it will always go to the city or tower in the state. She suggested to sign up for Smart 911 and file a profile, the profile will always go to the city or town that one is in when calling 911, a benefit when traveling.

Minutes: Mr. Guidera moved to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2017 meeting. Second by Mr. Symes and unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES: Ms. Place distributed the Director's Report. (ATTACHMENT A) The Senior Recognition Day event that was held recently was a success. Ms. Place reviewed two expenses requested for reimbursement: for Ms. Wiedemann for flowers \$80.03 and for Ms. Place for specialty plates and cake \$95.36, Mr. Boccuzzi moved to reimburse Ms. Wiedemann and Ms. Place for expenses as requested. Second by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved. Ms. Place announced a donation of \$1,000.00 from an anonymous donor: \$500.00 for art class and \$500.00 at the discretion of the director. Ms. Place also said that she received an invoice for notices for meeting from The Newtown Bee and will submit tomorrow in the amount of \$23.80. Mr. Guidera moved to reimburse the expense for The Newtown Bee. Second by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved. The Annual Mother's Day Tea will be held on May 12.

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES: Ms. LoBosco reviewed the Director of Social Services/Municipal Agent for the Elderly Report (ATTACHMENT B). She reviewed the situation of an elderly couple and that they are adjusting pretty well, not understanding the concept that they cannot access their money, they are working with them to help them understand. Ms. LoBosco's assistant, Jackie, started training on April 6 and will get ready for Medicare, attended a workshop regarding changing in health care system, and how it affects frail older adults, seniors let out early from the hospital, home care after stay. Ms. LoBosco met with Karen Tatarka, the new library director, and discussed how they can work together. Donation from St. Rose and gearing up for food drive for Mother's Day weekend. Mr. Symes commented about the handoff of coming out of the hospital and liaison to home care agency and system, he said there are issues regarding home health care after a hospital stay. Mr. Boccuzzi referred to a grant given to Danbury Hospital regarding this type of transition. Mr. Symes asked about Medicaid application training, Ms. LoBosco answered that it is complicated, depending on the situation, she can get them started, then the Town function keeps referrals in the system. Discussion continued regarding the transition from hospital to nursing home, the difficult situations surrounding the transition, and spending down plan. Mr. Symes referred to long-term insurance as a topic for future discussion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Wiedemann said that since Ms. Krauss has moved, there is no Treasurer's report this month, next month there will be two.

GRANTS COMMITTEE: Ms. Wiedemann referred to looking into federal grants and United Way grants. Ms. Bloom is awaiting response to an arts grant for \$15,000, supposed to hear in May. Mr. Boccuzzi referred to another grant for \$4,000. Discussion of space location for art program and availability of space within Newtown.

CHAIR/VICE CHAIR: Ms. Wiedemann sent out the Chair Report (ATTACHMENT C). Mr. Guidera discussed getting people out to vote on April 25. They spent time at Nunnawauk, informing residents of the April 25 date. Mr. Guidera asked if commission members have letters to the editor in the works, yes responses. Ms. Wiedemann referred to the ballot and what the ballot will look like. Discussion of the sample ballot, curb-side voting, and opportunity to hand out flyers 75 feet from the polling place. League of Senior Voters will be at the Senior Center this week to talk about the ballot.

Ms. Wiedemann referred to the Nominating Committee: Ms. Theune nominated Ms. Rothstein for Treasurer. The Commission will vote at the next COA meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Wiedemann will come up with a script for outreach regarding the April 25 referendum and getting out to vote.

Officer McCarthy spoke to elder abuse, she hopes that the COA will help and come up with an idea to help elderly in the community to educate families regarding elder abuse, consider educating seniors of this problem and recognize the problem. Officer McCarthy said that she is working on trying to revitalize a brochure, there used to be one for use for first responders, police officers. Ms. Place referred to a senior resource guide. Ms. Wiedemann said that she will look into holding a forum. Officer McCarthy and Ms. LoBosco are going to a statewide conference at Quinnipiac University. Mr. Guidera commented on a conservator of person, conservator of the estate. Mr. Guidera referred to the Probate Court process, party of interest and ability to bring up complaint in Probate Court. Ms. Wiedemann suggested a sub-committee to look into this further. Mr. Boccuzzi commented he liked the informative nature of this topic

and look to make resolutions to help people. Ms. Place shared an article on how elderly housing policy fails Connecticut seniors. Officer McCarthy said to share with the Newtown Police Department. Ms. LoBosco suggested to share with the library which could share with library members - the topic of elderly financial abuse.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Weidemann referred to a press conference to be held tomorrow at noon at the Sandy Hook Firehouse regarding the budget. Mr. Symes distributed a flyer regarding the Senior Center. The First Selectman has asked the COA to be part of the planning of the design and governance of the Senior Center. Ms. Wiedemann and Mr. Guidera reiterated the message to get people out to vote. Ms. Wiedemann to contact the Registrar's Office.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Officer McCarthy thanked the COA for senior appreciation event.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

June Sgobbo, Clerk

NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER
 Director of Senior Services
 March 18, 2017 – April 13, 2017

ATTACHMENT A

PROGRAMS NUMBER OF ATTENDANTS (March)

Meditation	28
Zumba Gold	10
Exercise	236
Floor Yoga (2 days)	86
Chair Yoga (2 day)	79
Cards	19
Mah Jong	4
Bingo/Keno	10
Lunch	103
Hot Dog/pizza Luncheon	26
Knitting	35
Iris Fold cards	25
Quilting/sewing	10
Walk-Ins	12
Billiards/ping pong	22
Crafts	32
Trips	16
Newsletter	
Wii	8
Painting/Art	15
Special events/entertainment	42
Tai Chi	29
Qi Gong	34
AARP Safe Driving	
Ballroom Line dance	11
Barn Dance	41
Current Events Discussion	55
Spanish Lessons	14
Speakers	70
Chair Pilates	23
Strength & Balance	33
Inter-generational w/ CAC	48
Password	8
Blood Pressure	
AARP Taxes	62

Attendance Daily:

Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Monthly Attendance
236	184	164	276	299	1159

COMPLETED EVENTS:

- St of CT public utilities reg. authority (PURA) March 31

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Newtown Senior Citizen Recognition Day April 13
- Annual Mother's Day Tea May 12

TRIPS:

- Mama Mia @ WBT April 20
- Warner Theater FOLLIES May 7
- Glenn Miller Orchestra May 15
- National Parks Experience Oct 10-16

CRUISES:

- Transatlantic Cruise Spain/Canary Island Oct 19-Nov 3, 2017
- Canyon Country Experience Oct 10- 16

SPEAKERS:

1. Vein Institute of CT April 28

Lunch and Learns:

1. How Not to Wait For An Emergency March 30
2. Best Friend's Approach to Dementia April 7
3. Vein Institute of CT Free Screening April 28

Cultural History Series: Continues w/ Arthur Gottlieb LSCW

1. Monday June 5 @ 1:00 Monuments of Washington DC

MULTI-PART WELLNESS SERIES:

1. **Understanding Interpersonal Boundaries (interpretation of communication) Tuesday April 18 @ 1:00 *****Good for all to attend**
2. **Baby Boomers and the Denial of Aging Thursday April 27 @ 10:30 Breakfast refreshments**
3. **Understanding Depression or Demystifying Dementia Thursday May 11 @ 1:00**

New fun programs

1. "Fran and Friends". Every other Monday @ 2
2. Poker Tuesday @ 1:30
3. Chess Club once a month on Fridays @ 3
4. Barn Dance Thursdays @ 2
5. Free Style Dance Wednesdays @ 3 starting March 15th
6. Mandala/Adult Coloring Thursday @ 1-2 & 3-4

GIFT FUND:

Monies to cover food/lunch for Senior Appreciation Day on April 13

***Will have more receipts at meeting**

REMINDER:

Aging Well CTBuck's Foundation website Start-up fee was voted on July 18 for \$1200 using monies from shredding day

Good news the fee is now \$800 with a one-time fee of Photo Scroll of \$250

Annual Fee for website maintenance is \$500.....TOTAL \$1550

More discussion at meeting.

AARP Income Tax Assistance Is complete as of Monday April 10. Total of 220 seniors took part of this wonderful free service.

New inter-generational program with Head O' Meadow School second graders writing project
Started March 29 was fabulous and we go back April 26

Dance Teams from Lathrop School of Dance will perform at the Center April 18th 4:00

More Upcoming Events for Seniors:

Senior Appreciation Day	April 13	12:00
Wheel of Fortune	April 26	2:00
Mother's Day Tea	May 12	1:00
Senior Prom	May 12	

Work continues for the Aging Well CT website

All Lunch and Learns on Friday are a big success.

I will be having a Lunch and Learn Friday June 2 w/ HARTransit. This will be very informative. Kennedy Center will also be in attendance to explain the handicap transportation also.

This year 220 seniors took advantage of the AARP tax assistance. It is a great service we offer.
The 3rd Annual Senior Recognition was a huge success. 60 seniors plus Senator Tony Whang and Pat Llodra w/ newspaper and Charter came out to Honor 3 wonderful Ladies in their nineties. It was a wonderful day.

Annual Mother's Day Tea is May 12 filling up fast
Senior Prom is May 12
Annual Statewide Senior Picnic is Monday August 21
Annual senior picnic @ Masonicare is Sept 15

Spring is here ... More to report on Monday

Keeping the seniors busy and active.

Marilyn



DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES/MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

April 2017

ATTACHMENT B

Program Statistics

Energy Assistance Applications (185 applications to date)

Food Pantry (45 individuals/families visit weekly)

Operation Fuel Program began December 1st – (11 applications to date - \$4,624.28 total). Total benefits available increased to \$10,000.00.

Salvation Army – (25 applications to date - \$7,695.26.00 total)

Goodwill gift cards – 2 distributed

Renter's Rebate – Program started on April 3rd (8 applications to date).

A second conservator has been appointed to the elderly couple with whom we have been working. He has taken over the estate as well as the person. A full-time live-in has been put in place to attend to their daily needs (cooking, cleaning, shopping, transportation). It is still a challenge for our office because the couple continues to call on us to take them to the bank to withdraw funds. Their dementia/Alzheimer's is progressing quickly and they are having difficulty understanding the concept of the conservator. We will continue to follow up until they feel a bit more stable.

Attended workshop on Elder Abuse at Newtown Youth & Family on March 27th and Renter's Rebate Training on March 28th.

Jackie began the 6-week CHOICES training program on April 6th which will certify her to counsel clients on their Medicare decisions.

Attended a workshop on April 6th at Maplewood of Orange on "The Changing Health Care Landscape and Its Impact on Fragile, Older Adults".

Met with Karen Tatarka, CH Booth Library Director to discuss what the library may be able to offer as services for Social Services clients.

Received very generous food donation from St. Rose, just in time for Easter/Passover.

The remainder of March and most of April has been busy with joining forces with the League of Senior Voters to explain to folks the necessity of voting on April 25th and the importance of the vote for the new Senior Center. There seems to be a lot of confusion and misinformation. The \$3million has not been appropriated. The money will be bonded ONLY after a YES vote happens. If that doesn't occur, no monies are bonded and yet again NO senior center. The League of Senior Voters will continue meeting in a variety of places, Nunnawauk Meadows, Walnut Tree Community, etc.

While we as a COA cannot advocate, we can certainly call our friends and urge them to vote on April 25th.

There was a wonderful celebration on Thursday, April 13th. This was the 3rd annual Senior Recognition Day. The League of Senior Voters, along with our director, Marilyn, put together an outstanding event. Tony Hwang was the guest speaker and this year, they honored several women who were "Queen for a Day". The event was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thank you to Marilyn Place, Karen Aurelia and Judy Thomas for turning the Senior Center into a festive place. The decorations and food were wonderful. The women who were honored had amazing histories. We had three young ladies from the high school attend and read the bio's. Thank you to Dr. Erardi and Principal Rodrigue for their assistance.

I have a couple of things on the clipboard that will go around. There's an ad for A Place for Mom. I met Lance Galassi who is an advisor for this organization. I have myself, contacted them in the past for my in laws. They take all the work of finding a number of suitable places, both long term or short term. Help you with places that are affordable to the individual and offer lots of helpful hints and suggestions in the meantime. There is also a signup for folks in the audience to leave their name and phone number if they have any questions or concerns.

Sadly, I'd like to thank Lisa Krauss for her time on the COA. She will be moving to Southbury and has, therefore, resigned. I appreciate all your efforts, especially most recently as our Treasurer.

Respectfully, Anna Wiedemann