

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, March 20, 2017 5:00 pm

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

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT.

Call to order: 5:01 pm.

Present: Anna Wiedemann, George Guidera, Margaret Imbro, Lisa Krauss, LeReine Frampton, Barbara Bloom (5:04), John Boccuzzi (5:05), Curt Symes (5:20).

Absent: Anne Rothstein, Ruby Ryles, Mae Schmidle, Claire Theune.

Also Present: Marilyn Place, Ann LoBosco, Officer Maryhelen McCarthy, 3 members of the public.

Minutes: Mr. Guidera made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2017 meeting. Second by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Officer Maryhelen McCarthy, Newtown Police Department, spoke about her involvement with the Crisis Intervention Program, meeting monthly, a panel to resolve problems, concern of elderly, guest speaker in the next few months to discuss concerns of Nunnawauk Meadows. Ms. Frampton suggested including a Nunnawauk board member, President of the board of directors Pat Bailey, may be able to help with resolving problems. Ms. Wiedemann suggested including Meals On Wheels to come on the panel in the future. Mr. Guidera asked about 911 codes where they are dispatched. Officer McCarthy to provide.

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES: Ms. Place requested the payment for public notices, example NewsTimes, Newtown Bee. Mr. Guidera made a motion to approve payment for public notices. Second by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

Ms. Place requested payment from the gift fund to pay for luncheon honoring long standing members of the senior center, approximately \$300. Ms. Wiedemann said that she would like to invite high school students to participate plus First Selectman Pat Llodra and State Senator Tony Hwang. Mr. Guidera made a motion to approve payment for luncheon honoring long standing members of the senior center. Second by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved. (ATTACHMENT A)

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES: Ms. LoBosco is working on a case to bring a couple to Maplewood, delays in the process, she is visiting on a daily basis until conservator is in place, community action extended fuel deliveries. Mr. Symes brought up the topic of the importance of awareness training regarding the dangers of drug abuse. Ms. Wiedemann questioned who does the senior population turn to regarding drug awareness. Mr. Boccuzzi said the Friends of Newtown Seniors is looking into it. Mr. Symes suggested considering starting with informative terms - place

articles in the Voices and Bee. Mr. Boccuzzi said that a multi-faceted approach is necessary, need some coordination, start with a writing campaign. Ms. Bloom agreed that educating families is important. Ms. Krauss gave example of client who does not quite understand medicines and dosages. Officer McCarthy said there is a new sergeant for community policing, she will bring up this topic. Ms. Wiedemann suggested bringing the new sergeant to the next VNA April 4 meeting to discuss, Ms. McCarthy agreed. Discussion of how to raise awareness leading up to a forum, raise awareness of medical intoxication of seniors as it relates to their medicines, File of Life discussed. (ATTACHMENT B)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Guidera moved to file the budget for audit. Second by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

GRANTS COMMITTEE: Ms. Bloom is working on an arts grant, budget parts in kind, and rework the numbers. Grant includes 4 art classes to combat senior isolation, life collage, play reading, poetry, pilobolus. 12 classes each over a year's time. Helps to celebrate their years, brings people together. Mr. Boccuzzi said there was success with a pottery grant. He added that the grants committee needs to develop long range plan with goals. Review the list of grants, best practices. As grants for activities are awarded, location discussed, Ms. Wiedemann said this is further reason to have the new senior center. Ms. Wiedemann said a subcommittee is needed to go over long range plans. Mr. Symes said to look into grants for the future. Ms. LoBosco said to also apply for grants that do not necessarily have to do with space needs. Ms. Wiedemann suggested the assistance from Christal Preszler. Mr. Guidera suggested a small sub-committee be formed to help find grants related to seniors.

CHAIR/VICE CHAIR: Ms. Wiedemann discussed the Friday morning meetings with Dr. Erardi, who wants to reach out to the Newtown senior community, to begin to develop a dialogue about possible budget cuts from the state. Discussion of letters to the editor in an effort to communicate information about upcoming referendum. Ms. Wiedemann thanked Ms. Place for organizing a successful St. Patrick's Day event. (ATTACHMENT C)

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Wiedemann discussed adjustments for non-advocacy materials related to the new senior center. (ATTACHMENT D)

NEW BUSINESS: copy of survey of livable community discussed. Mr. Boccuzzi met with Peaches Quinn, President of the Connecticut Coalition on Aging, they advocate heavily for seniors on the state level. This is centered on concept of legislation and what to lobby for as a legislator. Friends of Newtown Seniors, encouraged to send out survey. Ms. Place to post it on the bulletin board. (ATTACHMENT E)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Larry Passaro, 10 Flat Swamp Road, Newtown – Mr. Passaro said that he has talked to a lot of seniors and there is much confusion regarding the new senior center, he has heard from a lot of seniors who said they would prefer a reduction in taxes over a new senior center.

Mr. Symes initiated a discussion for a postcard mailer, costs of production and postage discussed, no decision made.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
June Sgobbo, Clerk

COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/R	C/D	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	NEW SENIOR CENTER	GRANT	BALANCE
1/1/17	Beginning Balance						49,166.73
1/5/2017	Ck #26386- Clare Lewis-Pottery Program	(127.50)					(127.50)
1/18/2017	Trust Distribution- T-36784			562.15			434.65
1/19/2017	Ck #26386- Brookfield Craft Center- Pottery	(137.50)					297.15
3/16/2017	Ck #27124- Arthur Gottlieb	(440.00)					(142.85)
3/16/2017	CI #27098- CS Consulting & Services	(23.80)					(166.65)

NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER
Director of Senior Services
Feb 28, 2017 – March 17, 2017

PROGRAMS NUMBER OF ATTENDANTS (Feb.)

	FEB
Meditation	15
Zumba Gold	12
Exercise	160
Floor Yoga (2 days)	74
Chair Yoga (2 day)	92
Cards	18
Mah Jong	4
Bingo/Keno	10
Lunch	89
Hot Dog/pizza Luncheon	
Knitting	21
Iris Fold cards	6
Quilting/sewing	18
Walk-Ins	32
Billiards/ping pong	8
Crafts	32
Trips	16
Newsletter	6
Wii	11
Painting/Art	19
Special events/entertainment	70
Tai Chi	31
Qi Gong	21
AARP Safe Driving	18
Ballroom Line dance	15
Barn Dance	41
Current Events Discussion	54
Spanish Lessons	20
Speakers	16
Chair Pilates	14
Strength & Balance	39
Inter-generational w/ CAC	52
Password	8
Blood Pressure	
AARP Taxes	40

Attendance Daily:

Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs	Friday	Monthly Attendance
167	207	118	171	176	839

COMPLETED EVENTS:

- AARP Driver Safety Program March 10
- St Patty's Day Fish Luncheon March 17

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- St of CT public utilities reg. authority (PURA) March 31
- Newtown Senior Citizen Recognition Day April 13
- Annual Mother's Day Tea May 12

TRIPS:

- AAC Women's basketball semi-finals Mar 5
- St Patrick's Celebration @ Aqua Turf Mar 14
- Mohegan Sun Mar 21
- Mama Mia @ WBT April 20
- Glenn Miller Orchestra May 15
- National Parks Experience Oct 10-16

CRUISES:

- Panama Canal March 13-23, 2017
- Transatlantic Cruise Spain/Canary Island Oct 19-Nov 3, 2017

SPEAKERS:

1. Irish Americans March 17
2. St of CT Public Utilities March 31

Lunch and Learns:

1. St Patty's Luncheon and Irish Americans March 17
2. How Not to Wait For An Emergency March 30
3. Best Friend's Approach to Dementia April 7
4. Vein Institute of CT Free Screening April 28

Cultural History Series: Continues w/ Arthur Gottlieb LSCW

1. Friday March 17 @ 12:30 Irish Americans
2. 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
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

Monies for the legal notice in the paper, Danbury News Times was \$313.45

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 started Monday Feb 6 will continue through April 10.... TOTALLY FILLED.

New inter-generational program with Head O' Meadow School second graders writing project starts March 29

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

More Upcoming Events for Seniors:

How Not to Wait For An Emergency March 30

St of Ct Public Utilities Regulatory Authority March 31

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

Traditional Van Grant is completed and submitted

Focal Point renewal for Senior Center completed and submitted

Work continues for the Aging Well CT website

Keeping the seniors busy and active.

Marilyn



MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

COA – March 20, 2017

Program Statistics

Energy Assistance Applications (161 applications to date)

Food Pantry (45 individuals/families visit weekly)

Operation Fuel Program began December 1st – (11 applications to date - \$4,624.28 total)

Salvation Army – (18 applications to date - \$5,149.67.00 total)

Attended a probate hearing on February 21st petitioning the court to appoint a conservator to the estate of an elderly couple. They have no children but have a niece that is believed to be exploiting them. In the process of putting services into place in their home on a daily basis to take care of their basic needs and offer transportation. The initial conservator who was appointed withdrew from the case; another one has been appointed but posting of bond is pending. Attempted to get the couple to visit Maplewood as a possible option, but on the day of our appointment for a tour they cancelled. Will have to look for permanent in-home care (2 to 4 hours/day).

March 9th was Fairfield County Giving Day and the Newtown Service Unit of The Salvation Army decided to participate. Contributions were to be made on that day online to any non-profit who has registered. Unfortunately, we did not get the name "Newtown Salvation Army" registered in time; therefore there was confusion when people attempted to donate. We will know better for next year!

Attended the Narcan Training offered by The Parent Connection on February 23rd; excellent workshop.

CAAWC has extended the deadline to receive a fuel delivery to March 31st; we have been contacting clients to make them aware of the change and make sure they utilize their benefit. Applications for electric continue until May.

The Lion's Club contacted me regarding their annual "help with home repairs" for a qualified individual/family. I have recommended a senior living in her own home who could use repairs to her roof, some exterior painting, and other minor repairs. I am hoping she will be approved.

Upcoming:

- Elder Abuse Training at Newtown Youth & Family Services on March 27th
- Renter's Rebate Training on March 28th
- Elder Abuse Training hosted by CAPE (Coalition for Abuse Prevention of the Elderly), Quinnipiac College, on April 20th

Many meetings continue regarding the Community Center and Senior Center. I will continue to send out the agenda's as I get them to notify you of meetings. It would be great to see members of the COA attend. There is a BOS meeting Monday, March 20 at 7:30. I cannot attend as I have a BOM meeting after COA. Here is the link to the agenda: <http://www.newtown-ct.gov/sites/newtownct/files/agendas/img-316103627-0001.pdf>

Resolution #9 pertains to the Senior Center. Please let me know if anyone else can attend.

Last Wednesday, the Legislative Council voted to pass a resolution allowing the COA to prepare non-advocacy materials related to the Senior Center Referendum question scheduled to be on the back of the ballot on April 25, 2017. This would include fliers, posters and explanatory text. While the COA cannot advocate, the FONS are able to do so. Ruby Ryles is working on a flier - I am hoping to have it to share at our meeting on Monday. We need to move forward with this asap. The first step was LC, the next is creating the flier and having it looked at by the town attorney, Dave Grogins. If there is something you think should be included on a flier, please e mail Ruby jamrr@aol.com is her e mail address.

This past Friday, Marilyn prepared a wonderful lunch. It was a lunch and learn program, where Arthur Gottlieb shared some history on what St. Patrick's Day means. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Both Margaret Imbro and I attended. The next event that I would encourage COA members to attend is Newtown Senior Recognition Day, which will be Thursday, April 13, 12:00 where lunch will also be provided.

George Guidera and I will be attending Dr. Erardi's ongoing committee to discuss the needs of the senior population. The first meeting was an informal information gathering session. I have attached a copy of my notes.

Monday, prior to the COA meeting at 5:00 I'll have our first Roundtable, which will take place at the Senior Center. This will begin at 3:00. There were some folks who where at Friday's event, who said they plan on attending. It's to be very information, but I hope will provide feedback that we can use moving forward, both at a new Senior Center, but more importantly, things that are happening at the current Senior Center.

Enjoy your weekend. Anna

February 24, 2017

Dr. Erardi met with a group of concerned citizens. Bernie, Steve, John, Mr. Embree (Michelle Ku, who sits on the BOE - her dad), Paul, Marilyn and myself.

Dr. Erardi reported that if the state budget goes through as proposed, there will be over 6 million in a shortfall to the town commencing July 1.

Biggest factor is the teacher retirement plan. 33% would come back to the town as their responsibility.

The governor would like communities to postpone their referendums. The state budget may not be decided/agreed upon until possibly May.

Site based health center will be eliminated at NMS (this impacts 12/14 students). There is a part time grant writer that was funded by a grant. That person has brought in over a quarter of a million dollars to the school budget. \$145,000 was already reduced because two full time mental health providers will be funded via a grant.

On Monday the BOE meets with the BOF. After this the budget will go to the LC.

Dr. Erardi, the Chief of police and Pat Llodra met with realtors who told them that things are improving in Newtown.

Dr. Erardi met with Chrystal Prezler. How do we build a base and attract people/businesses to Newtown who is a high performance district? He will ask Chrystal to attend out next meeting which will be on Friday, March 24 at 8:00am at the district office.

What can we do to bring in more business, bring more residents to Newtown (not necessarily with children), make Newtown more user friendly.

34 plus students have moved into the Sandy Hook School since the beginning of the year.

Newtown is an aging community.

Increasing commercial base will be difficult. CT is not a business/industry friendly.
A good school system is good for our community. It improves home values.
Seniors should be enticed to live here.

Governor is trying to help urban school districts. The state of Hartford will be the first to claim hardship claiming they are broke.

Dr. Erardi said that Newtown's fund balance is 11-12 million. The fund has been well managed.

Make Newtown a learning community. Connect the senior population to our schools.

Garner support to include other groups in town when building a case of why closing a school would be beneficial to the community. Lay out the impact for the community for closing a building. It was said that the BOE should not be afraid to vote for what's best for the entire community. People who support closing a building will not speak in public.

Our homework is to bring a friend to the March 24 meeting.

Red

VOTE

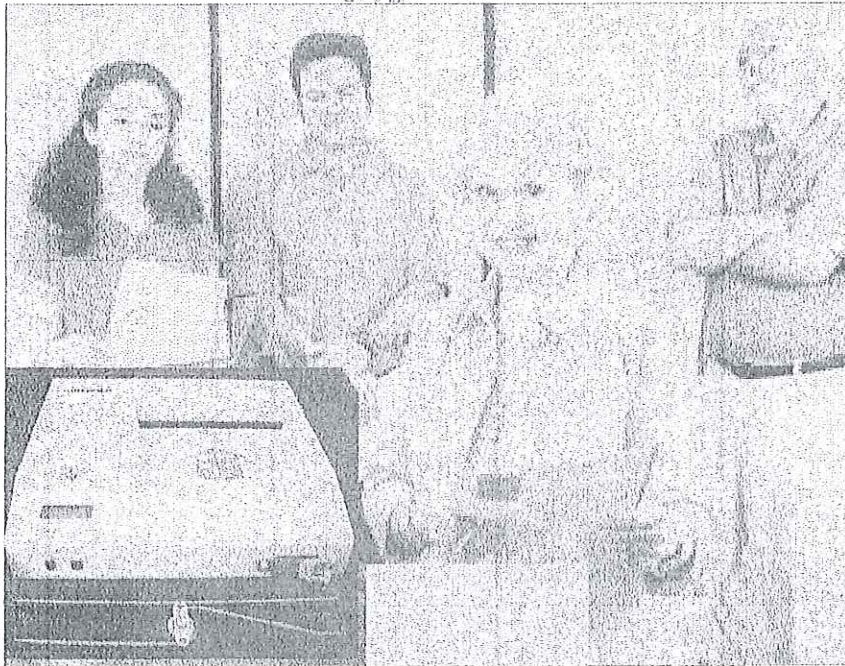
Blue

April 25

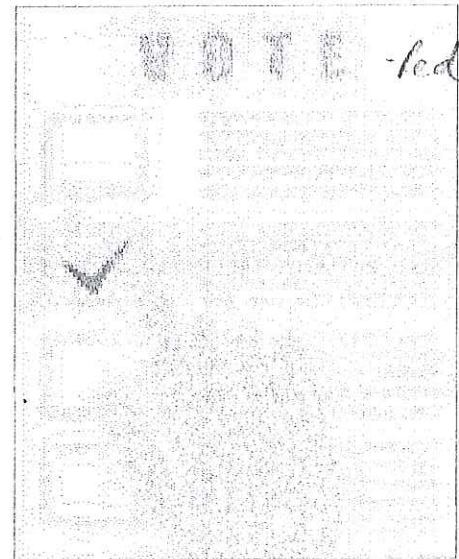
Newtown Middle School (A Wing Gym)

Your Voice Counts • Your Vote Matters

Color



Budget Referendum



- New senior center is on the ballot.
- The new senior center will be bonded for \$3 million.
- This represents approximately \$16 yearly in extra taxes.
- The senior center will have dedicated space for multiple programs including exercise, bingo, computer, ping pong, lectures, etc.
- The senior center will have sufficient and safe parking.

Newtown Commission on Aging



Connecticut Coalition on Aging (CCOA) 2017 Annual Legislative Survey

YOUR VOICE COUNTS!

If you are age 60 or older, please take a few minutes to complete this quick, voter survey. We need your responses by March 31, 2017. All responses will remain anonymous. To complete this survey online go to: surveymonkey.com/r/CCOA2017

1. What are the most important older adult issues CCOA should promote in the 2017 legislature? Please mark your three top picks with a 1, 2 and 3 with 1 being the most important to you.

- _____ Senior housing
- _____ Door to door transportation programs
- _____ Funding for respite services for family caregivers
- _____ Funding for food and fuel programs
- _____ Home services to help aging seniors remain in their homes

2. Which one of the following spending cuts would hurt you the most? Pick one!

- _____ Respite services
- _____ Medicaid services
- _____ Meals programs
- _____ None of the above

3. What other older adult issues not mentioned above, should be a priority for the 2017 legislature?

4. Would you be willing to pay more taxes to pay for programs that help needy seniors? _____YES _____NO

5. Are you in favor of *age restricted* housing for seniors? _____YES _____NO

ABOUT YOU

6. Your town _____ Your zip code _____

7. Your gender? ___ M ___ F ___ Do not identify with either

8. Your age? ___ 60-65 ___ 66-74 ___ 75-84 ___ 85-94 ___ 95+

9. Your annual household income? ___ less than \$10K ___ \$10K - \$25K
___ \$25,001-\$50K ___ \$50,001- \$75K ___ more than \$75K

10. You live ___ alone ___ with family members, partner or a spouse
___ Other

Please complete this survey by March 31, 2017

Thank YOU for completing this survey!

Your responses will help your CT Coalition on Aging influence the way state representatives vote. Have questions? Email Peaches Quinn, CCOA President.

peachesquinn14@gmail.com