

**NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, June 17, 2019**  
**MUNICIPAL CENTER**  
**3 Primrose Street**  
**Newtown, CT**  
**Council Chamber**  
**5:00 PM**

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT BY THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING.**

The Commission On Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, June 17, 2019 at 5:00 pm at the Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Wiedemann called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Anna Wiedemann, Barbara Bloom, John Boccuzzi, LeReine Frampton, Ruby Ryles, Curt Symes, Claire Theune, Larry Passaro. Alternates: Cris Fadus, Bob Edwards.

**ABSENT:** Anne Rothstein, Joanne Albanesi.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Community Center Director Matt Ariniello, Director of Human Services Natalie Jackson, 3 public.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *Gary Macrae, Boggs Hill Road, Newtown* – thanked Mr. Ariniello for support of the tag line for the Senior Center – Center for Active Living.

**MINUTES:** MR. SYMES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2019 MEETING. SECOND BY MR. PASSARO. Mr. Passaro noted that his comments regarding copies of the newsletter referred to color copies, if the cost is not too prohibitive, be made available at the Senior Center. ALL IN FAVOR. (8-0) MOTION PASSES.

MS. FRAMPTON MOVED TO ADD TO THE AGENDA THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MAY 29, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING. SECOND BY MS. BLOOM. ALL IN FAVOR. (8-0) MOTION PASSES.

MR. PASSARO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 29, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING. SECOND BY MR. SYMES. ALL IN FAVOR. (8-0) MOTION PASSES.

## **REPORTS**

**CHAIR REPORT:** Ms. Wiedemann shared the chair report. (ATTACHMENT) Ms. Wiedemann will pass out the sign-up sheet. Ms. Wiedemann introduced Mr. Edwards as newest member of the Commission On Aging.

Mr. Ariniello said the Community Center / Senior Center will have a ribbon cutting on July 19<sup>th</sup> and there will be a grand celebratory event in October. Will be hiring a Facilities Manager who will be maintaining both the Community Center / Senior Center, as well as a bookkeeper, and front desk staff.

Should have the keys by July 1, furniture arriving thereafter, paving starts this week. They will be selling memberships continuously. Monthly memberships for Newtown residents are \$41 for a family, \$30 individual, and \$18 for senior, currently running a special – 10% off if one pays for the year. The Community Center has received grants (\$3,500 and \$5,000) from Charter Spectrum for 20 tablets to be used by both the Community Center and Senior Center, half for the lending library in the café and gathering space, the other half plan to use for programming.

**VICE-CHAIR REPORT:** None.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bloom shared the Treasurer's Report. (ATTACHMENT) MS. FRAMPTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT. SECOND BY MR. SYMES. ALL IN FAVOR. (8-0) MOTION PASSES.

**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES REPORT:** Ms. Jackson shared the Department of Human Services: COA Report. (ATTACHMENT) Preparations are underway for relocating Social Services to Fairfield Hills to share a building with the Center for Support and Wellness. The food pantry will remain where it is now, coordinating with Faith Food Pantry and others to insure food is provided to best meet needs. Ms. Jackson will be coordinating social service outreach with the senior community at the Senior Center. Efforts will be made to be inclusive and available to the seniors. Ms. Jackson will be attending a webinar for MySeniorCenter to help streamline events, bookings, and reports.

**SENIOR CENTER REPORTS:** Ms. Wiedemann distributed the Senior Center reports. (ATTACHMENT) Mr. Boccuzzi brought up reciprocity with other town memberships, disparity issues, Ms. Wiedemann said that since pricing has been approved for the year, defer for future discussion.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**GRANTS COMMITTEE:** Ms. Bloom thanked Ms. Theune for attending presentation for ceramics grant and is looking at future grants, and will coordinate with Ms. Jackson and Ms. Cebry. Ms. Jackson is developing more formalized process and for right now is the point person.

**RESOURCE GUIDE:** Ms. Wiedemann to reach out to Ms. Rothstein.

**LIVABLE COMMUNITY UPDATE:** Mr. Boccuzzi said met goal of raising \$2,500 for facilities needed in the Senior Center and will present a check, it is from the Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Domain; in the Housing Domain, meeting with Ms. Jackson on Thursday with Habitat for Humanity to talk about the Brush With Kindness Program; turned down on a grant for chore services, looking for funding sources, seed money. Will be meeting in the next couple weeks to review Livable Communities.

**FUNDRAISING / PLANNED GIVING:** Mr. Symes shared New Newtown Senior Center for Active Living – Fund-Raising & Planned Giving – Objective & Accomplishments. (ATTACHMENT)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Food Insecurity:** Ms. Ryles attended the Age Well Community Council summit on June 6 at Ethan Allen and provided an overview. Food insecurity is defined as having limited access to enough food due to lack of money. It is strongly associated with income but is not limited to people living in

poverty. A poverty income is under \$12,140 a year, or \$1,012 a month which is about \$400 less than the average social security check which is \$1,404. In 2017, 5.5 million or 1 in 12 seniors were food insecure. Seniors who reported a disability were disproportionately affected, with 25% reporting food insecurity. Among food insecure seniors, 6 in 10 are female. Seniors who live with grandchildren are more likely to be food insecure than seniors who do not. DataHaven, a New Haven based research entity, reports a 9% food insecurity problem in Newtown; 13% in CT, and 11% in Fairfield County. Suggestions to help included to look to increase the turnout of people getting lunches at the Senior Center, more vegetarian meal options, improved transportation to the Senior Center, help to identify those who are food insecure by reaching out to local clergy, schools, medical practitioners, advertise services, develop flyers to promote efforts, try to alleviate stress of navigating social services with frequent seminars, workshops held at the Senior Center, promote the Senior Center as a place to come for information and assistance.

**Smart TV for lobby area (or program room):** Ms. Jackson is looking into various options and will have more information in the near future.

**Possible screen for projector (we will measure to confirm if our current screen will fit in the new Center of we will need a new, smaller one):** Same as TV, further information to follow.

**Funds for ribbon cutting ceremony to share cost with CC (up to \$500):** MS. FRAMPTON MOVED TO APPROVE UP TO \$500.00 FROM THE GIFT FUND TO SHARE COST FOR RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY. SECOND BY MS. BLOOM. ALL IN FAVOR. (8-0) MOTION PASSES.

**Funds to move and tune piano donation:** Ms. Wiedemann said there is no new information to provide on this item at the moment.

**Funds for landscaping:** Ms. Jackson said all ok.

**SC signage (lobby and possible lamppost banners):** Ms. Jackson will come back with more information. Ms. Wiedemann said the COA can hold a Special Meeting, if necessary.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Wiedemann said nothing to add under Old Business.

**ADJOURNMENT:** THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, MS. FRAMPTON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:33 PM. SECOND BY MS. BLOOM. ALL IN FAVOR. (8-0) MOTION PASSES.

Respectfully submitted,  
June Sgobbo, Clerk

Attachments: Chair Report, Treasurer's Report, Senior Center Reports, Age Friendly Livable Community Report.

## CHAIR REPORT JUNE 17, 2019

As I write this, I am thinking how wonderful July's meeting will be in the NEW Senior Center! As of now, all seems to be on track for the first week of July. There have been many rumors regarding the grand opening. July is the soft opening and the Grand Opening will take place in October.

Welcome to our newest Alternate member – Bob Edwards. He is already a great asset. He would like to look at our current membership form and adapt it to mirror the information needed in My Senior. Not even on but a minute and already looking at how he can help the COA!

We need to think ahead to summer – updating our By-Laws, getting the Resource Guide to the printer are two immediate needs. Getting both done by August should be a priority.

Ruby attended a Food Insecurity Summit. I am anxious to hear what she will share with us. I know firsthand, having helped at the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets as well as helping with the Salvation Army food pantry, and Meals on Wheels that this is a reality for more people in our community than anyone may be aware of.

We had a special meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at the Senior Center. The minutes are attached from that meeting, making everyone aware of what was discussed and voted on for the new Senior Center.

The insert with information about the Senior Center and Community Center should be arriving shortly to all households in their tax bill.

I have reprinted the Volunteer form that is for Lunch Coverage – I transferred the names over, as we will cover through the end of August. That should give Natalie some time to create a volunteer packet to vet future volunteers. Thank you all for your help with this.

I have also reprinted the Sub-Committees spreadsheet. Please take a look and add your name, if you haven't already done so.

There are a number of articles I'll pass around. We have the article announcing Natalie Jackson, the trip to the Capitol, the Mother's Day Lunch and Bingo, our wonderful volunteer and Senior Center member, Vicki Boccuzzi, was featured in Snapshots, a picture of the visit to Bellamy Ferriday House and Garden and lastly, the Senior Citizen Dinner Dance! What a fabulous turnout for that. Record number of almost 100 guests! Park and Rec outdid themselves once again!

Thank you all for your help and continued support, Anna

		COA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND					
DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	NEW SENIOR CENTER	GRANT	BALANCE
7/1/18	Beginning Balance						45,027.86
7/18/2018	Qrtly Distribution- Knotts Trust			649.95			45,677.81
9/13/2018	Ck #33354- Newtown Labor Day Parade	(100.00)					45,577.81
9/30/2018	Aug P-Card-Holiday Inn- (13 People)	(442.00)					45,135.81
10/18/2018	Qrtly Distribution- Knotts Trust			649.95			45,785.76
11/16/2018	Annual Bazaar- Receipts T-28167 (earmarked for Bazaar volunteers)		2,059.75				47,845.51
11/28/2018	Oct P-Card-Michael's At The Grove -Dep for Holiday Party	(200.00)					47,645.51
11/29/2018	Dist. Deficiency payment for 2017(Knotts Trust)			377.00			48,022.51
12/6/2018	Ck #34393- John Hemberger- Holiday Party 12/6/18	(200.00)					47,822.51
12/11/2018	Tree from Bazaar T-31040		25.00				47,847.51
12/11/2018	Raffle Holiday Party T-31041		238.00				48,085.51
1/24/2019	Qrtly Distribution-Knotts Trust			649.95			48,735.46
4/23/2019	Qrtly Distribution- Knotts Trust			507.68			49,243.14
4/23/2019	Donation- Archdeacon Family Foundation(Audio Visual Equipment) T-52854		10,000.00				59,243.14
5/9/2019	Ck #36116- Diversified Printing Solutions- Mesh Banner-Partial	(150.00)					59,093.14
5/17/2019	Donation- Lions Club T-57153		1,000.00				60,093.14
6/11/2019	Donation- Annmarie Macey donation T-60563		17.00				60,110.14
6/11/2019	Distribution deficiency payment for Tax Year 12/31/18- KnottsTrust			394.00			60,504.14
		(1,092.00)	13,339.75	3,228.53			60,504.14

## Department of Human Services: COA Report

Submitted By: Natalie Jackson, Director

June 17, 2019

As I begin my second month here in Newtown I remain impressed by the warm welcome, efforts by residents and key folks working in town to get me up to speed, and the positive energy around the future of the Department of Human Services. Since our last COA meeting we are now above 100 new members to the Senior Center. June has been a busy month for programming and tours. For July and August we look forward to scaling back programming for a brief hiatus so we can focus energy and man power on the move to our new home on Campus.

As I continue onboarding, in my work on behalf of our community's seniors my initial priorities remain:

- Working closely with the COA and CC team to prepare for the move to the new SC
- Identifying the staffing plan for the SC to be implemented following the move
- Establishing plans for reaching out to and engaging the larger senior population

On June 20<sup>th</sup> the Department looks forward to moving Social Services to Fairfield Hills to share a building with the Center for Support and Wellness. The three areas now under the new Department of Human Services, including Social Services, Support and Wellness, and Senior Services will all soon be located in the Fairfield Hills Campus. These services will be in close proximity to one another, as well as to other important municipal services provided by the Town. We expect this strategic move will improve the efficiency of service delivery across all spheres of the new Department and will have a positive impact for residents engaging with us. The Human Services team looks forward to joining together in our new locations on Campus.

The last several months Social Service program statistics include:

- Energy Assistance Applications 2018/2019: 182. 62% of applications were completed by senior/disabled residents (110 applications). Applications were accepted through May 31. The last day for fuel delivery was April 1.
- Food pantry: 34 families visit weekly. 86% are senior/disabled (23)
- Operation Fuel applications December 2018-Present: 13 applications, \$5750.51
- Salvation Army fund requests October 1, 2018-Present: 39 applications (8 senior/disabled), \$12,927.28.
- Renters Rebate 2018: 81 applications
- Renters Rebate 2019: 53 applications (April 1, 2019-present)
- Camp scholarships: 12 awards to date

Please be ready to join me on July 18<sup>th</sup> for the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the **Newtown Senior Center, Center for Active Living!**

- *Natalie*



Event Occurrences from 05/15/2019 to 06/13/2019

Filters:

Site(s): All

Category	Event	# of Events	Hours Scheduled	Unduplicated
Classes/Workshops	Ambulance Corps	1	1	0
	Art in the Atrium	4	8	6
	French Lessons	4	4	8
	Knitting	4	8	16
	sewing/quilting	1	3	2
	SPANISH	5	5	12
	Tech Troubleshooting	6	6	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>
Health Screenings	Blood Pressure	3	3	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Health/Fitness	Chair Pilates	4	4	13
	Chair Yoga	7	7	25
	Fitness Fury	9	9	44
	Flex & Fit	4	4	26
	LINE/COUNTRY DANCING	3	3	17
	Morning Meditation	4	4	8
	Qi Gong	2	2	8
	Strength training	5	5	11
	Tai Chi	2	2	9
	video exercise 2	8	8	11
	Yoga	11	11	30
	Zumba	5	5	23
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>112</b>
Nutrition	Lunch	18	18	19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Off Site Excursions	Mattatuck Museum	1	6	7
	The Sicilian Tenors	1	5	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
Recreation/Entertainment	Canasta	1	3	0
	Keno	1	1	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Social Activity/Event	Cards	18	126	13
	Catch Phrase	5	5	8
	Chess	5	5	1
	Craft	12	24	7
	Lunch and Learn	3	42	26
	Password	1	1	6
	Poker	4	12	3
	PT Barnum Museum	1	6	7
	Puzzles	21	-105	4

	Quilting/Sewing	3	12	5
	The Bellamy Ferriday Tour	1	4	5
	Thimble Island Tour	1	9	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>63</b>
Socializing				
	.Socializing/Just Visiting	22	198	41
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>41</b>
Special Events				
	Ct State Police Bomb Dog	1	1	7
	Glebe house tour	1	5	3
	Lunch and Learns	1	2	27
	Movie	2	2	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>35</b>
Special Groups				
	Book club	1	1	5
	COA	1	13	0
	Hot Topics	4	4	11
	Womens Discussion Group Chi	4	4	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>
Volunteer Opportunities				
	Inter-generaional programs	2	26	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>190</b>

No Fob

3

3

2

2

2

2

4

4

4

8

2

2

1

4

5

24

People that were active between 05/15/2019 and 06/13/2019

Filters:

**Age:** >=0  
**Site(s):** All  
**Seniors:** Include Seniors with no activity in the c

Age Range	Count	Percent
Ages 55-59	7	1.4%
Ages 60-64	26	5.3%
Ages 65-69	83	17.1%
Ages 70-74	117	24.1%
Ages 75-79	77	15.8%
Ages 80-84	76	15.6%
Ages Below 55	7	1.4%
Ages Over 85	93	19.1%
Unknown	1	0.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>100%</b>

Date range from 05/15/2019 to 06/13/2019

Filters:

Age:  
Site(s):

Checkin Count	1237
Days in Range	21
Avg Duplicated	58.9

Avg Per Weekday

Monday	62.67
Tuesday	67.5
Wednesday	53.2
Thursday	46.4
Friday	70.25

Avg Per Day by Month

May	57.08
June	61.33

## **New Newtown Senior Center for Active Living - Fund-Raising & Planned Giving - Objective & Accomplishments**

(Updated by C. Symes as of June 17, 2019)

### Objective:

To supplement the funding of certain value engineered items and facilities for the new Newtown Senior Center (e.g. - outdoor seating, landscaping, indoor furniture, arts & crafts materials, exercise equipment, education & teaching materials, etc.).

Donations will be acknowledged as Tax Deductible and accepted for either specific designated purposes or for use by the Director of Human (Senior) Services.

In addition, a Newtown Senior Center Brochure highlighting the new tagline “Center for Active Living” will be developed, printed and distributed. It will also serve to both acknowledge and highlight the donors/supporters/retailers helping the New Senior Center.

Initial donations will be 1<sup>st</sup> solicited from local COA, FONS, etc. members, Senior-oriented Businesses & Organizations and then Seniors across the communities served by the new center. The continuation of the yearly \$20 (Resident & \$25 Non-Resident) Senior Center Membership Fee will also be highlighted.

### Accomplishments:

1. Anonymous Donation of \$10,000 toward SC Audio/Visual System and a part of shared CC/SC Kitchen Facilities - May 2019
2. “In Memory of John Aurelia” Donations toward SC Outdoor Metal Bench and Indoor Furniture - May 2019
3. “Curt Symes / Commission on Aging / 2019” Donation toward SC Outdoor Metal Bench - June 2019
4. “The Symes Family / 2019” Donation toward CC Outdoor Metal Bench - June 2019
5. Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) Planning Donation (TBC) - July 2019
6. COA (TBD) ...

7. A number of individuals, families and groups have expressed interest in donating at this point

8. Local Newtown Professional, Organizational, Living Communities & wider ranging Senior-oriented Business Sponsors - TBD

9. Other Ideas for Funding Outreach - NCE Seminars, Newtown Senior Button, Publicity/Flyers, Marketing, etc?

Legend: SC refers to the Senior Center

CC refers to the Community Center

COA refers to the Commission on Aging

FONS refers to the Friends of Newtown Seniors

LCI refers to the AARP Age Friendly Livable Community Initiative

[File: New Sr. Ctr. Fund-Raising & Planned Giving.doc]