

**Commission on Aging  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 19, 2014 @ 5:00 pm**

MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, **May 19, 2014** at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, Connecticut. Chairman Curt Symes called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

**Members Present:** JoAnne Albanesi, Karen Aurelia, John Boccuzzi, Joanne Davis (Co-Vice Chair), LeReine Frampton, Margaret Imbro, Joan Plouffe, Curt Symes (Chair), Sheila Torres (Co Vice-Chair) and Anna Wiedemann; **Support & Advisory Present:** Ann Piccini, Municipal Agent for the Elderly; **Excused:** Marilyn Place, Director of Senior Services, Larry Schneider (Treasurer) and Anne Rothstein.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Several members of the public were present. Mr. Symes said that the typical rule in Town allows voter comments to have a three minute slot to speak. He then asked members of the public if they would like to speak later in the meeting. Ray Baker noted that he would like to speak later.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Imbro motioned to approve the minutes of 4/21/14. Ms. Albanesi seconded the motion and all were in favor. The minutes were approved as written.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Attachment A):** Mr. Symes reviewed his report. There have been discussions with the other area Commissions on Aging who have interest in the Newtown's Senior Resource Guide and grants initiatives. He noted that the new Community Center is now being referred to as a combination of the Senior Center / Aquatic Center. Mr. Symes recognized the work that Ann Piccini and Ann Benore are doing for the Municipal Agency's office. He also recognized Anna Wiedemann for her 26 years of dedication and service as a volunteer in Newtown. Mr. Symes felt the commission should focus on a core group of activities. Commissioners will set a time to have a working session to focus on setting priorities. The main priority now is the new Senior Center, following with grants and the survey. The commissioners will also be reviewing the Charter for updating.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

New Community Center – Senior Center Meetings Feedback: Ms. Torres noted that the study group had asked for the draft business plan (revenue / expenses) for the new senior center to be refined and to work on a cost recovery plan. Mr. Symes said the YMCA business model is an example of what they would need for the center. Mr. Boccuzzi said in order to seek a grant they need to know what programming they are seeking. Mr. Symes said that operations, programming and staffing specifics are being looked into and are still in the early stages. The commissioners discussed the possibility of hiring a marketing person and/or grants person for the new Senior Center. Mr. Symes said the First Selectman will continue the monthly meetings at the Senior Center. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Newtown Senior Survey Update: (Attachment B) Ms. Torres said a draft of the survey will be available for the commissions' review soon. The commissioners discussed ways in making sure all the Newtown seniors get a copy of the survey. The Outreach Team will reach out to senior communities (Nunnawauk, Liberty, Maplewood and Walnut/Liberty).

CoA Senior Grants Research for New Programs Funding: Mr. Boccuzzi noted that he needs more identification of programming needs in order to go forward with researching grants. He asked Ms. Piccini about the needs that they have in the Social Services office. Mr. Symes discussed allocating money from the gift fund for grant writing support. The commissioners discussed this and felt more information needs to be accumulated before going forward.

Newtown Legislative Council Charter Review Charge Committee Status: No update.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** – (Attachment C) Mr. Symes distributed the Treasurer’s Report.

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT** (Attachment D) – Ms. Place submitted her report in absence. In her request for funding for flowers, Ms. Torres motioned to approve \$200 from the gift fund for flowers. Mr. Boccuzzi asked to amend the motion to include up to \$250.00. Ms. Torres agreed except with the request that Ms. Place provide receipts to the commission. Ms. Aurelia seconded the motion. The commission passed the motion with four (yes) to three (no) votes.

**MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERY REPORT** – (Attachment E) Ms. Piccini submitted and reviewed her report in detail.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Ray Baker asked for clarification about the grant and programming costs. He feels the budget should be more detailed.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Frampton motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Aurelia. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Hazen, Clerk