

Commission on Aging
Meeting of Regular Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2014 @ 5:00pm

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

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Curt Symes called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Present: Sheila Torres, Curt Symes, Joanne Davis, Claire Theune, Joanne Albanesi, John Boccuzzi, Anne Rothstein, Margaret Imbro, Barbara Bloom, LeReine Frampton.

Absent: Anna Wiedemann

Also present: Marilynn Place, Ann Piccini

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Joan Plouffe has resigned from the commission.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

MINUTES – Mr. Boccuzzi moved to approve the September 15, 2014 meeting minutes. Mrs. Frampton seconded. Mr. Symes requested the following change be made. Under Chairman's Report, 3rd line down should read "(Attachment A) and provide a brief overview stating that the commission is using 100+% of its resources focused on the Newtown Senior Survey, New Community Center and new Grants work. Future priorities include an expanded web presence and greater visibility." The minutes were unanimously approved with changes.

Mr. Boccuzzi moved to approve the October 20, 2014 meeting minutes. Ms. Albanesi seconded, motion unanimously accepted.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mr. Symes discussed his Chairman's report (Attachment A).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Newtown Community Center Status – The Public Building and Site commission is going through its final evaluations. Decisions have been made on the final contractors, both Architecture/Engineering firm and the Construction Management firm. They are going through contract reviews and the project management organization, DPM, who has over sight acting on Mrs. Llodra's behalf, is doing some leveling review stuff. At this point in time they are looking at December to have contracts in place.

There is a multi phase plan that the town is looking at. Phase I is the community center with the \$15,000,000 GE donation. \$10,000,000 to build it and \$5,000,000 for operations. Then as a phase II, the idea of expanding to acquire the Newtown Youth Academy or to add on to the community center to include Park & Recreation office space. Phase III would be the acquisition of the NYA to provide the Rec center.

Mr. Symes has requested a 3rd Q&A on the community center by the end of the year with the contract signed, that would help answers some questions.

Community Relations & Outreach Update including survey – Ms. Torres discussed items covered in their November 10 meeting (Attachment B).

The question of a discount guide of senior discounts was discussed. There were concerns that the discounts are here today and gone tomorrow.

They came up with some samples of cross references from the survey that they have asked Ms. Rothstein to compile. Ms. Rothstein reported that they are trying to get answers to what seniors might want by different categories, and activities in the senior center (Attachment C). They now have 1300+ surveys in the spreadsheet to analyze. You can look at information such as at how long they have lived in Newtown and if they know about the services available to Newtown residents.

The question about calling the seniors who marked that they wanted to be contacted in the event of the emergency arose. EMS will include in their database if the seniors are disabled. They also suggested that commission members contact the seniors so they know that they have not been forgotten about. Ann Piccini will reach out the EMS people and ask that they come to the next meeting to help the commission understand how to move forward.

Senior Center Senior Action Committee (SAC) Activities – Mr. Boccuzzi reported that the men's breakfast was a success. Joe Borst came and spoke about being part of WWII. Next month they have Jerry Brooker coming to discuss Indonesia. They are trying to support Mrs. Place and bring back the hot dog lunch which was very successful. The last meeting they brought up ideas for raising visibility of the senior offerings at the center. The SAC committee is there to do one thing and that is to support anything that goes on at the Senior Center.

Charter Revision Committee & CoA By-Laws Status - Mr. Symes asked the new members on the commission re-review the documents with a fresh set of eyes. Review the mission statement on the website, the ordinance, the by-laws and related items were tasked. Mr. Symes articulated that his vision in 2015 is to take the initiative to lay the stuff on the table and get it aligned and do a reality check, does it make sense and is it relevance to the new senior world that we are

experiencing. There was controversy over having Ms. Theune and Mrs. Bloom working on this as they are new to the commission. Originally, Ms. Plouffe and Ms. Davis were working on this. They were waiting until they had information from FOI if the team approach would work which they received their answer last Wednesday. Ms. Davis articulated that there is a draft on the table and wants to finish the work. Fresh eyes from Mrs. Bloom and Ms. Theune are welcome if they are willing.

NEW BUSINESS

CoA Budget Discussion – Not discussed

CoA Website(s) Discussion – Ms. Rothstein spoke with her contact about a website and found that it can be connected to the town and a price could be given once a concept is decided on. It was discussed that the concept of the Town of Newtown's EDC and Newtown Cultural Arts Websites as well as other Commission on Aging websites from other towns would be a good start.

Treasurer's Report – (Attachment C), the balance of the account has a larger balance than it has historically.

Director of Senior Services Report – Mrs. Place discussed her report (Attachment D)

Municipal Agent for Elderly Report – Mrs. Piccini discussed her report (Attachment E).

Public Participation – NONE

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.

Arlene Miles, Clerk

Newtown Commission on Aging (COA) – Chairman Report – 11/17/14 Meeting

Welcome to our November monthly COA Meeting. In keeping with our theme to raise awareness of senior issues, November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. We have just completed a Charter CTV-192 Senior Issues & Answers film segment titled "Understanding Hospice" with Mary Condron, LCSW from Regional Hospice of Western CT in Danbury. It will be aired over the next 2 weeks followed by an ongoing series of monthly topics, dealing with key senior issues including Probate, Elder Law, etc.

With the recent elections we have had the opportunity to interact with many of the political candidates to share senior views and highlight future needs.

I would like to welcome Attorney Brendan Froehlich to our meeting this evening. He is a local native who has now taken over Paul Lux's Elder Law Practice here in Newtown.

Also, our Clerk, Arlene Miles, will be putting together and distributing the 2015 schedule for CoA Meetings.

We will be continuing our 2014 primary focus on the New Community Center, including both the Senior & Aquatic Centers, the Newtown-wide 60+ Senior Survey and our COA Grants initiative. In addition, we have now launched an effort to ensure the visibility of Newtown's Senior activities in the ongoing Charter Revision work and a new senior-friendly, informative website-electronic bulletin board.

Starting in 2015 we will be restarting previously initiated CoA work on Finances, By-Laws, reprinting the Senior Resources Guide and identifying critical Newtown Senior Needs, based on the compiled Survey Results.

We have also been meeting monthly with the Senior Center - Senior Action Committee (SAC) to both share information & insights and coordinate activities, as we go forward with the New Senior Center Planning. The SAC has now initiated a number of ongoing programs to raise current center visibility and attract new members with the monthly Men's Breakfast Forum and Hot Dog Luncheon. In addition a bureau of informative speakers and topics is being developed to offer interesting presentations to the senior community, as well as, coordination with the Nunnawauk Meadows Residents.

Finally, the New Community Center (Senior Center & Aquatics Center) Study Group/Advisory Team and Public Building & Site Commission has concluded its meetings and submitted its recommendations on the selection of both Architecture/Engineering and Construction Management Contractors for the new facility. Work is now underway to assess the business case and financial impact of the new centers.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Symes

Chair, Newtown COA

Commission on Aging

Community Relations and Outreach Team Report - November 2014

Meeting Date/Time: Monday, November 10, 2014/ 4 pm

Present: Le Reine Frampton, Margaret Imbro, Sheila Torres (tardy)

Absent: Anna Wiedemann (excused); Joanne Albanesi

Location: LeReine's Cuisine, Peck Lane, Newtown, CT

Key Discussion Points

- COA Budget Suggestions - Team members discussed following items to recommend to Curt Symes for COA budget request.

Arts Festival - \$450 (space rental, sturdy display board, publishing of materials and other needs)

Harvest Ball - \$800 Organized by the COA, formal, musical/social dancing event to take place in October 2015 at the Alexandria Room on a Sunday afternoon/early evening with music and finger foods. Tickets \$10 or \$15 will help defray expenses. This will be an opportunity to talk up and generate interest in the new Senior Center and its activities.

Reprint of the Senior Resources Guide - \$1,000 Based on request/suggestion to Commissioner Imbro, include appropriate edits and additions as well as page(s) listing Newtown businesses who offer a senior citizen discount. This may make the guide more "valuable" for seniors and may help COA defray cost by requesting a fee for businesses who wish to be included in the list.

Mother's Day Tea \$450 – Organized by COA, Take place in Edmond Town Hall, \$10 or so, children can bring their Moms.

Questions from Team to Anne Rothstein

1. What are the top three to five activities, programs, trips for each age group?
2. What are the top three reasons given for not being a senior center member, by age group?
3. What percentage of seniors who identified themselves as "employed" are members of the senior center?

Survey Results

Anne Rothstein has developed process to capture comments that were written in. Will share at next COA meeting.

There will be a presentation to COA of results so far at the Nov. meeting.

December presentation will be announced to the public through article in *The Bee*.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 8, 4 PM, Le Reine's Cuisine

Newtown Senior Survey 2014

Newtown Commission on Aging

Community Relations and Outreach Team – November 17, 2014

Newtown Senior Survey 2014 – November 17, 2014

- Examples of Cross-reference Questions
- Process for Collecting Comments Data
- Survey Results Report Schedule

Survey Presentation for COA – November 17, 2014

Proposed Schedule for Communicating Survey Results

- **December 2, 2014** – Send out survey update article and announce the communication of the data at the December 15 Meeting.
- **December 15 Meeting** – Provide data for all standard survey questions through presentation at COA meeting.
- **January 20 Meeting** - Update COA on “comments” data and on cross-reference questions submitted. Provide COA with information that will be distributed to media and others.
- **February 16 Meeting** – Provide data for comments and cross reference questions

Survey Presentation for COA – November 17, 2014

- *Draft* -

Schedule for communicating survey results

- **December 2, 2014** – Send out survey update article and announce the communication of the data at the December 15 Meeting.
- **December 15 Meeting** – Provide data for all standard survey questions through presentation at COA meeting. Create “take-away” handout.
- **January 20 Meeting** - Update COA on “comments” data and on cross-reference questions submitted.

Attachment ID

SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/R	C/D	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	BALANCE
7/1/13	Beginning Balance				41,995.66
7/22/14	Trust Distribution			609.76	42,605.42
8/1/14	Ck. #14903 Holiday Hill		(270.00)		42,335.42
8/1/14	Ck. #15024 Michael's at the Grove		(200.00)		42,135.42
9/4/14	Ck. #15537 Superior Signs		(340.00)		41,795.42
9/4/14	Ck. #15468 Minuteman Press		(485.00)		41,310.42
9/18/14	Ck. #15611 John Bocuzzi		(61.24)		41,249.18
9/18/14	T-14601 Trust Distribution			491.00	41,740.18
10/16/14	Ck. #16219 Andrea Zimmermann		(281.25)		41,458.93
10/22/14	T-21447 Trust Distribution			609.76	42,068.69
11/13/14	Ck. #16575 Sean McKee- Party Entertainment		(250.00)		41,818.69
11/13/14	Ck. #16578 Michael's At the Grove - Party		(490.00)		41,328.69
			(2,377.49)	1,710.52	41,328.69

ATTACHMENT E
NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER
Director of Senior Services
October 18, 2014 – November 14, 2014

PROGRAMS **NUMBER OF ATTENDANTS (October)**

Zumba Gold	53
Exercise	291
Floor Yoga (2 days)	62
Chair Yoga (2 day)	71
Cards	52
Mah Jongg	22
Chorus	21
Bingo/Keno	11
Lunch	70
Knitting	48
Cards (craft)	13
Quilting/sewing	9
Walk-Ins	20
Billiards/ping pong	36
Trips	56
Newsletter	10
Wii	4
Movie	5
Painting/Art	20
Special events	142
Tai Chi	22
Entertainment	
AARP Safe Driving	
Ballroom Line dance	39
Current Events	50
Spanish Lessons	23
Speakers	60
Chair Pilates	30
Strength & Balance	25
Ping Pong	18
Crafts	8
Walking	18

Attendance Daily:

Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs	Friday
204	293	345	208	393

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

1443

COMPLETED EVENTS:

- Halloween Luncheon /Bingo Party w/ Bob Mel entertainer Oct 30
- Fairfield Historical Society Oct 31
- Mohegan Sun Nov 6
- Senior Center Holiday Gift Shop (on going)
- Game night/social Nov 7
- Thanksgiving Bingo Nov 12
- JOINT PAIN? Latest options seminar w/ Dr Deveney Nov 13
- Lunch and Learn sponsored by Masonicare (Getting through the Holidays & Self care tips for overall coping reducing stress) Nov 14

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Fictional Writing Nov 18
- You Be The Judge sponsored by Visiting Angels Nov 21
- Annual van trip to The Crackel Barrel and Holiday Shopping Nov 21
- Computer/ipad/iphone problems? Get help from IT director Al Miles Nov 25
- Spirituality and Aging Session w/ Leo McIlrath Chaplain @ The Lutheran Home of Southbury Dec 2
- Elder Law Forum Dec 3
- SC Tree Trimming gathering Dec 5
- Game night/social Dec 5
- 26th Annual Holiday Party @ Michael's at the Grove Dec 9
- Luncheon @ The Spinning Wheel Dec 12
- SPECIAL lunch for 30 seniors (social isolation) Dec 16
- SC Holiday Bingo Party and sing a long Dec 17
- Annual Holiday Cookie Swap Dec 18
- Hot Dog Luncheon Dec 19
- Intergenerational Memoir Writing Project February 2015

Upcoming Trips

- Radio City Xmas Spectacular Nov 20
- Boar's Head Feast Celebration w/ Bright Nights Dec 8
- Osborne Homestead Museum Dec 18
- Mardi Gras @ Inn at Hunt's Landing in Matamoras, PA Feb 17
- The Spirit of Spring @ the CT Flower & Garden Show Feb 19

Annual Holiday Party @ Michael's at the Grove update:

Set date is Tuesday Dec 9 and snow date is Friday Dec. 12 from 11-3

\$35 pp includes gratuity

Music will be by DJ BIG DADDY

If interested please sign up soon....Hope many from the COA can attend.

- I have mentioned my concerns for clients/seniors and the fact of "social isolation" amongst our seniors in our community.
I'm collaborating w/ Ann Piccini to entice our mutual clients to the center during the winter months to come and socialize and have a meal. This is simply encouraging and inviting....once a month for 30. The van will provide transportation for some.
UPDATE: I've started 3 weeks ago contacting seniors, and Ann is working on her list.....good response. Dates scheduled are Tuesday Dec 16, Jan 20, Feb 17, March 24

- Hot Dog Friday is a SC program the 3rd Friday of every month. By keeping it simple of dogs and chips w/ fruit for \$2 it will run by itself. Next scheduled one is Dec 19.
- Al Miles , IT Director will be returning Nov 25 @ 10 to help seniors w/ questions/problems w/ their personal lap top & iphone etc.
- With the holiday quickly coming upon us...I've reached out to Leo McIlrath to do a Spirituality and Aging session here at the Center. The holiday season is tough on many and this is one way to encourage positive feelings and give support to others in a different kind of discussion group. Dec 3 @ 1

This month has been extremely busy preparing for the special programs...Lunch and Learns, holiday bingos & entertainment, Dr Deveney joint pain seminar, game night/social, etc. which all have been well received. (30 or more per session). Also, reaching out to those clients I'm aware of that may fall in the cracks for social isolation. If any COA member may know of any senior which may fall in that category please let me and /or Ann know. With the winter on its way, I'm making sure they are prepared for the bad weather ...signing up for Code Red and Smart 911.

I'm pleased to have the social workers at the Resiliency Center. Long story short... I've had a new member basically have a breakdown in my office....Physically and verbally attacked me. Her need was that she needed help.. she was going around asking for counseling, and is very frustrated that she couldn't find anyone to help her. So someone suggested she come here. Following procedure, The RC was a phone call away, to help guide w/ the situation over the phone...then followed through whereas said client is now getting counseling.

Next week, starting Monday the parking lot will be somewhat blocked off for the digging from the street around the hill where the tree is to the back of the Center for the connection of the water meter pipe . The water will be shut off in the afternoon for a short period of time. There will be no morning classes on Monday and we hope that will be the only time during the week classes will be cancelled. Overflow parking during the week will be at the SH fire dept. back parking lot. This construction project should be done by Friday.

The Holiday gift shop is open on Thursday and Friday from 10-2.
Seniors love it.

Happy Thanksgiving

Marilyn



Director of Social Services/Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Report for September 20, 2014

We have been very busy doing fuel applications. We need all bank statements and income for everyone in the household. Attached the poverty guidelines and what is needed to apply. We have completed one hundred eighteen applications. Twenty-eight are disabled and forty-nine are elderly.

We are taking the holiday applications and have seventy-seven Thanksgiving completed and fifty-six Christmas. The Christmas needs every family members sizes colors so the adopted persons can shop. Newtowners are very generous to our clients.

My elderly lady with all the mail is now in Masonic care. I have an attorney who said she would be her conservator. Thanks to Pat Llodra who gave me her name. I will check on how my elderly ladies medical evaluation has gone and if we can keep her in an assisted living. I know she cannot live in her home any longer but until something drastic happens she is still in charge of what she wants and not what is best for her.

We are helping people sign up for food stamps and health insurance. Can be done on the computer or paper application with required documents. We have completed twenty-five applications this month. I completed twenty-five redeterminations for the Medicare Savings Program.

I was on vacation last week to Arizona visiting my grand-daughter. We also visited friends that live in Sun City. This is a senior retirement area with three senior centers with dancing, exercise, wood working, pottery, pool room and each one had huge pools. A pool for walking, swimming laps, physical therapy and a lift to be put into the pool for those in a wheel chair and hot tubs.

FY 2015 Poverty Guidelines - Energy Assistance

Household Size		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Level 4* (200% FPG)	TO	\$ 23,340.00	\$ 31,460.00	\$ 39,580.00	\$ 47,700.00	\$ 55,820.00	\$ 63,940.00	\$ 72,060.00	\$ 80,180.00
	FROM	\$ 17,505.01	\$ 23,595.01	\$ 29,685.01	\$ 35,775.01	\$ 41,865.01	\$ 47,955.01	\$ 54,045.01	\$ 60,135.01
Level 3 (150% FPG)	TO	\$ 17,505.00	\$ 23,595.00	\$ 29,685.00	\$ 35,775.00	\$ 41,865.00	\$ 47,955.00	\$ 54,045.00	\$ 60,135.00
	FROM	\$ 14,587.51	\$ 19,662.51	\$ 24,737.51	\$ 29,812.51	\$ 34,887.51	\$ 39,962.51	\$ 45,037.51	\$ 50,112.51
Level 2 (125% FPG)	TO	\$ 14,587.50	\$ 19,662.50	\$ 24,737.50	\$ 29,812.50	\$ 34,887.50	\$ 39,962.50	\$ 45,037.50	\$ 50,112.50
	FROM	\$ 11,670.01	\$ 15,730.01	\$ 19,790.01	\$ 23,850.01	\$ 27,910.01	\$ 31,970.01	\$ 36,030.01	\$ 40,090.01
Level 1 (100% FPG)	TO	\$ 11,670.00	\$ 15,730.00	\$ 19,790.00	\$ 23,850.00	\$ 27,910.00	\$ 31,970.00	\$ 36,030.00	\$ 40,090.00

Household Size		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Level 4* (200% FPG)	TO	\$ 88,300.00	\$ 96,420.00	\$ 104,540.00	\$ 112,660.00	\$ 120,780.00	\$ 128,900.00	\$ 137,020.00	\$ 145,140.00
	FROM	\$ 66,225.01	\$ 72,315.01	\$ 78,405.01	\$ 84,495.01	\$ 90,585.01	\$ 96,675.01	\$ 102,765.01	\$ 108,855.01
Level 3 (150% FPG)	TO	\$ 66,225.00	\$ 72,315.00	\$ 78,405.00	\$ 84,495.00	\$ 90,585.00	\$ 96,675.00	\$ 102,765.00	\$ 108,855.00
	FROM	\$ 55,187.51	\$ 60,262.51	\$ 65,337.51	\$ 70,412.51	\$ 75,487.51	\$ 80,562.51	\$ 85,637.51	\$ 90,712.51
Level 2 (125% FPG)	TO	\$ 55,187.50	\$ 60,262.50	\$ 65,337.50	\$ 70,412.50	\$ 75,487.50	\$ 80,562.50	\$ 85,637.50	\$ 90,712.50
	FROM	\$ 44,150.01	\$ 48,210.01	\$ 52,270.01	\$ 56,330.01	\$ 60,390.01	\$ 64,450.01	\$ 68,510.01	\$ 72,570.01
Level 1 (100% FPG)	TO	\$ 44,150.00	\$ 48,210.00	\$ 52,270.00	\$ 56,330.00	\$ 60,390.00	\$ 64,450.00	\$ 68,510.00	\$ 72,570.00

* - In order to qualify for Level 4 CEAP assistance, households must have a member who is Vulnerable (under 6yrs old, elderly (age 60 or older) or disabled).

FY 2015 State Median Income Guidelines

Household Size		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Level 5 (80% State Median Income)	CHAP	\$ 32,514.56	\$ 42,519.04	\$ 52,523.52	\$ 62,528.00	\$ 72,532.48	\$ 82,536.96	\$ 84,412.80	\$ 86,288.64
Household Size		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
(80% State Median Income)		\$ 88,164.46	\$ 90,040.32	\$ 91,916.16	\$ 93,792.00	\$ 95,667.84	\$ 97,543.68	\$ 99,419.52	\$ 101,295.36

ENERGY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST

INCOME DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AS
FOLLOWS (*ITEMS MUST BE DATED WITHIN PRIOR 4 WEEKS OF APPLICATION
DATE*)

- Photo ID
- Social Security Cards for ALL Household Members
- Verification of Address- Utility bill
- Verification of ALL sources of income for last 4 weeks prior to date of application
 - *Employment – Last 4 weekly paystubs/ or 2 if paid biweekly
 - *Child Support – Copy of court order, divorce decree or signed agreement
 - Pension/Retirement – Letter stating annual income
 - Rental Income – Copy of lease or rental agreement
 - Self Employment – Notarized form covering prior FULL 6 or 12 calendar months, PLUS COMPLETE current income Tax Return (Personal/and or Business)
 - Social Security Benefits – Proof includes direct deposit, letter from Social Security or copy of check
 - *Unemployment Compensation – Print out from DOL
 - Veteran's Benefits – Proof includes letter from VA
 - *Workman's Compensation – Proof includes direct deposit or letter stating weekly income
 - *TANF- Letter from DSS case worker/food stamp card
 - *Interest- Verification on bank statement if more than \$10/mo.
- *Bank Statements – Current Complete statements including bank name
- Heat included in rent – Copy of lease or letter from landlord (including his/her name, address and phone number) stating heat is included in rent, and amount paid
- Verification of Rent/Mortgage – Lease/ rent receipt or mortgage statement

