

**Commission on Aging  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, October 19, 2015 @ 5:00 p.m.**

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

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, October 19, 2015 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Curt Symes called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**Present:** Curt Symes, Sheila Torres, Anne Rothstein, Barbara Bloom, Ruby Ryles, Margaret Imbro, John Boccuzzi, Mae, Schmidle, Claire Theune

**Absent:** Anna Wiedemann, Marilyn Place, Ann Piccini

**Also Present:** 2 members of the public

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Symes welcomed Mae Schmidle who was appointed as a commission member by the Board of Selectman to fill Joanne Albanesi's vacancy. There still remains 2 vacancies and candidates are now being interviewed.

Mr. Symes reported that October is "Senior Appreciation Month" and NYA is helping to celebrate by offering a series of clinics, health & wellness seminars, and fitness & exercise classes. Any senior interested in a two-week trial membership to the NYA can sign up at NYA.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Imbro made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 21, 2015, seconded by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved.

**ANNUAL MEETING – ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Ms. Theune presented the slate of candidates for officer positions: Curt Symes (Chairman), Sheila Torres (Vice Chairman), Anna Wiedemann (Treasurer). All candidates were interviewed on September 3, 2015 and agreed to fill the positions. Discussion occurred regarding the prospect of electing a Secretary to the Commission on Aging. Mr. Symes said that the position will be further defined in the future and decided whether it is necessary.

There being no nominations from the floor, Mr. Boccuzzi made a motion to accept the slate of candidates as presented, seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** (Attachment A) – Mr. Symes highlighted his report discussing two major initiatives that the COA has been working on. The proposed revisions to the Draft Newtown Charter have been accepted and forwarded to the Legislative Council for acceptance. The revisions include a change in the verbage used in the COA mission statement. Mr. Boccuzzi asked whether the topic of grants would be included in the mission. Mr. Symes reported that the Charter Revision Commission and the Legislative Council felt grants were beyond the scope therefore, they kept the specifics in the ordinances streamlined. The Draft Charter can be found on the Town’s website and the text regarding the COA includes:

*Summary of General Responsibilities: There shall be a Commission on Aging to advocate for seniors and identify the needs of and coordinate services and programs that support the well-being of Newtown senior residents and act as their agent for other Federal, State or Town Boards, Commissions or agencies or local private groups to carry out programs for senior residents.*

Mr. Symes also reported on the proposed composition of the Newtown Community Center. Approximately 3,300 residents participated in the survey sent out by the Community Center Commission (CCC). There were 4 public forums held and several hundred people attended and voiced their opinions. Ms. Torres said there was a cross section of seniors who attended and some spoke about the current Senior Center being an “embarrassment”. Other seniors expressed interest in after-hours programs. Mr. Boccuzzi said a lot of work has gone into getting the survey out and the Town should feel very good about the CCC’s efforts. The opinion that people want multi-purpose space is universal. Now priorities need to be set and a plan needs to be developed.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** (Attachment B) – Mr. Symes presented the report in Ms. Wiedemann’s absence. He noted that \$598.40 in trust distribution was received this quarter from the Frank Knott Trust. He also noted that the grant money was received from for the exercise classes and WCAAA’s fiscal year ended in September. The classes will continue through November and the Town Finance Department will front the money to pay the instructors for the remaining months (which the COA will pay out of the gift fund).

**Ms. Bloom made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report**, seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT:** (Attachment C) – In Ms. Place’s absence, Mr. Symes gave the report and presented 3 requests. 1) Gift fund to pay for 3 classes for October and November. (As noted above, will be taken care of by the Town.) 2) Fee of \$150.00 for the Music Therapy class in November to Rafel Sgammato from by the Gift Fund. 3) \$200.00 deposit to Michael’s at the Grove for the annual holiday party from the Gift Fund.

**Mr. Boccuzzi made a motion to allocate \$150.00 from the Gift Fund for Rafel Sgammato’s Music Therapy class**, seconded by Ms. Rothstein and unanimously approved.

**Mr. Boccuzzi made a motion to allocate \$200.00 from the Gift Fund for the deposit to Michael's at the Grove for the annual holiday party,** seconded by Ms. Rothstein and unanimously approved.

The question was asked why money for programs is taken out of the Gift Fund and not the Senior Services Budget. Mr. Symes said this question has been raised before, and the practice has been that money is taken out of the Gift Fund for anything done that costs more than what is in the budget. Ms. Torres would like to review the Senior Services proposed budget for the upcoming year. She feels program money should come out of the budget. Mr. Boccuzzi suggested that "Review of Senior Services Budget" be placed on November's agenda.

**MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY:** No report due to Ms. Piccini's absence.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Community Relations & Outreach Team Discussion* – (Attachment D) Ms. Torres reported that the team will be making phone calls to the Senior Survey respondents who provided phone numbers to be added to the Red Alert System. They will use Edmond Town Hall phones so the Caller ID shows Town of Newtown. Officer MaryHelen McCarthy (3 Main Street) stated that her number can be given out to assure people that the phone call is not a scam.

Ms. Torres reported that she will be contacting Marilyn Place to discuss improvements to the Newsletter. Vicki Boccuzzi will be joining in the effort as a Senior Center member. In addition, Ms. Ryles was asked by the Commission to review the newsletter with Judy Thomas, Senior Center Assistant.

Ms. Torres attached questions to her report that were sent to Pat Llodra about Senior Center Improvements. Her responses are also attached. Key items that Ms. Torres feels need immediate attention are the parking lot, entry way redesign, painting the interior, reupholster furniture, audio visual/computer improvements, and possible implementation of "My Senior Center". Mr. Symes asked who would be interested in working on and discussing Senior Center Improvements; Sheila Torres and Barbara Bloom both volunteered.

Now that an ad hoc committee has been developed to work on newsletter redesign, Mr. Boccuzzi suggested advertising in the newsletter be discussed to help support the cost.

**Mr. Boccuzzi made a motion to press to put advertising in the newsletter and all advertising would be approved by the Commission on Aging,** seconded by Ms. Torres and unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Communications to Seniors of Newtown Proposal Discussion* – Ms. Ryles forwarded suggestions to commission members about improving communications to seniors. She will be attending a meeting on Wednesday to discuss further developing the "Danbury Senior Resources" website to include the Greater Danbury area. She feels communication to the public can be done

through press releases to inform people of Newtown's need for senior space. Ms. Bloom stated that while space needs are important, the need for audio/visual equipment should take priority and getting the word out may encourage someone to donate the equipment. Mr. Symes feels we can create awareness through a COA newsletter if produced once a month.

There being no further business, **Mr. Boccuzzi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.**, seconded by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann LoBosco, Clerk

AH. A

Newtown Commission on Aging (CoA) – Chairman Report – 10/19/15 Meeting

Welcome to both our October CoA Regular Meeting and Annual Meeting combined. We will be voting on the slate of officers being brought forward by the Nominating Committee and previously presented in September.

As I mentioned in opening announcements, Mae Schmidle has been appointed to the CoA and we currently have two (2) vacancies.

The NYA Sports & Fitness Center with our assistance is celebrating October of this year as Senior Appreciation Month with a series of Clinics, Health & Wellness Seminars and Fitness & Exercise Offerings. This has been publicized here at the Senior Center, in the Newtown Bee and in the Voices.

Since our September meeting there has been a great deal of progress on two (2) major initiatives that we, as a commission, have been working on.

The 1<sup>st</sup> is our proposed Revisions to the Draft Newtown Charter and I am happy to report that the major substance of our change has been accepted and is being forwarded to the Legislative Council (LC) for their acceptance. I want to thank the members of the commission, especially Claire Theune, for their collaborative effort over the past few weeks in helping to bring this together. We have now significantly changed and reflected our focus for all the Seniors of Newtown, and the involved reviewing parties were all very complementary of what we had undertaken. There is still more work to be done down the road but for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in too many years the ball is rolling and the door is now open for further discussion with the LC.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> initiative of an even larger scope is the proposed composition of the new, currently under discussion Newtown Community Center by the 2015 Community Center Commission. This expanded scope effort, involving all interested stakeholder groups in Newtown, has done an outstanding job of reaching out across Newtown and conducting a primarily electronic survey responded to by approximately 3,000 Newtowners, and conducting four (4) Information Center Sessions/Forums, drawing a few hundred folks in total. At this point they will now begin to go forward, melding together the input from the survey, numerous presentation and research data, various business case inputs and stakeholder input forms in order to develop one or more proposals to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen later this year and ultimately brought forward in a Newtown Voter Referendum probably in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2016.

We will continue to participate in and input to the commission's discernment over these next months. In the 4<sup>th</sup> and final info session this past Saturday it became apparent to many of us and many Newtowners, at large, that what is really needed in a true Newtown Community Center is a complex, comprised of both Community Spaces, including Private/Public areas, Senior areas and Cultural Arts areas, and Sports Spaces, including Parks & Rec offices, Aquatic/Pool facilities, an NYA-like facility and an Ice Arena.

Finally, we will now also be re-focusing on our previous effort to more effectively communicate with the Seniors of Newtown beyond the Senior Center. Commissioner Ryles has circulated and will be discussing a proposal that encompasses mmuch of what we need to address.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Symes

Chair, Newtown CoA

Att. B

SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/D	C/R	FRANK KNOTTS NEW SENIOR TRUST FUND CENTER	BALANCE
7/1/2015	Beginning Balance				43,169.78
7/6/2015	DONATION- TAUNTON PRESS		150.00		43,319.78
7/6/2015	DONATION- NEWTOWN LIONS CLUB		1,000.00		44,319.78
7/20/2015	TRUST DISTRIBUTION			598.40	44,918.18
7/30/2015	Ck #19567- Holiday Inn(3 STAFF/7GUESTS)	(310.00)			44,608.18
7/30/2015	Ck #19532- Alan Devalerio(White House Speaker)	(100.00)			44,508.18
8/12/2015	S.C. TEE SHIRT		10.00		44,518.18
9/17/2015	Ck #20233 Arthur Gottlieb- History Pres- Sept/Oct/Nov	(330.00)			44,188.18
<b>PERIOD TOTALS</b>					
		(740.00)	1,160.00	598.40	44,188.18

Note: Total in New Sr Ctr = \$2,000

WCAAA GRANT:

9/10/2015	Grant Received	1,080.00			
9/29/2015	Grant Received	480.00			
8/6/2015	ck#19638-Susan Bradley	(160.00)			
8/6/2015	ck#19640-Eileen Byrnes	(160.00)			
8/6/2015	ck#19675-Claudia Landwehr	(160.00)			
8/10/2015	Ck# 19722- Eileen Byrnes	(200.00)			
8/10/2015	Ck # 19721- Susan Bradley	(200.00)			
8/10/2015	Ck #19744- Claudia Landwehr	(200.00)			
9/17/2015	Ck# 20185- Eileen Byrnes	(160.00)			
9/17/2015	Ck #20260- Claudia Landwehr	(160.00)			
9/17/2015	Ck # 20183- Susan Bradley	(160.00)			
10/15/2015	A/P - Claudia Landwehr	(200.00)			
10/15/2015	A/P - Susan Bradley	(160.00)			
10/15/2015	A/P - Eileen Byrnes	(120.00)			
		(480.00)			





#### COMPLETED EVENTS:

- Senior Picnic @ Masonicare Sept 18
- Flu shot clinics Tues Sept 29 9-12, Oct 13 10-12
- Fall Bingo Sept 24
- Cake Nurse Sept 29
- Essential Oils Oct 1
- Battle of the Bulge history speaker Oct 8
- Life Happens Seminar Oct 13

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Annual Halloween Bingo Dance Party Oct 29
- Annual Holiday Bazaar Nov 14

#### Upcoming Trips:

- Oktoberfest @ Platzl Brauhaus October 23
- Dancing in the Streets Oct 27
- USO Show Troupe Nov 10
- Amish PA overnight Dec 2-4
- Christmas in Hawaii Dec 16

#### New programs:

1. Intergenerational craft program w/ CAC every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday
2. Bible Study Wednesdays @ 2:30
3. Mornings with Marilyn Thursday @ 10
4. Humor w/ Judy Thursday @ 3
5. Cake Nurse w/ Linda Pinckney RN regional Hospice every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 2
6. Bingo sponsored by Lutheran Home once a month
7. Wheel of Fortune sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care once a month

#### More Upcoming Events for Seniors:

- **Historian Speaker Arthur Gottlieb** LCSW  
Nov 17 Eiffel Tower @ 2:00
- **Annual Halloween Party** Oct 29
- **Nunnawauk Meadows Halloween Party** Oct 30
- **Music Therapy Class** Nov 19
- **Fall Prevention intro talk w/ Health Dept and BVNA** Nov 19

New inter-generational program every Friday @ 2:30 "Tips and Tricks on everyday Technology" continues to be doing quite well. Many seniors enjoy the help. They are able to bring in their own device, phone, tablet, computer camera, etc and can learn on them. The "senior" girls are very outgoing and energetic and our members love it.

**Gift Fund:**

**GRANT UPDATE:** monies are being received monthly. Gift fund has been reimbursed as per discussion last month.

**As per e-mail WCAAA fiscal year ended in Sept. Question is to re-apply. We should. I have continued the 3 classes till the end of November.**

- 1. I am requesting the gift fund to pay for those 3 classes for Oct and Nov.**
- 2. I am requesting the fee of \$150 for the Music Therapy class in Nov to Ms.Rafel Sgammato**
- 3. I am requesting \$200 deposit for the annual holiday party to Michael's at the Grove**

Annual Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday Nov 14 from 9-3 .

So many have been busy! It will be wonderful...using donated items...making something from nothing, totally creative members! A complete profit in the end !

Annual Holiday party is scheduled for Wednesday Dec 9 @ Michael's at the Grove in Bethel. Snow date is Dec 14.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Prices are continuing to increase, with changes in menu's. I am keeping the same menu as of last year...luncheon buffet etc. **The new menu does not offer fish. To include the fish, it is \$2 more per person. I am keeping the price of last year of \$35.00 pp....and some monies made at the Bazaar will pay the difference.**

We will have the same DJ, seniors like him.

Taking the seniors to a USO Show @ the Grand Oak Villa Nov 10 in celebration of Veteran's Day.

Keeping the seniors busy and active.

**Marilyn**



AA D

## Commission on Aging

### Community Relations and Outreach Team Report – October 2015

**Meeting Date/Time:** Monday, October 12, 2015

**Present:** Anna Weidemann, Margaret Imbro, Sheila Torres

**Location:** Edmond Town Hall, Main Office

#### **Key Discussion Points**

**Phone Calls to Survey Respondents** – Will use the script provided by Maureen McGovern to try to enroll survey respondents who provided phone numbers, into the Emergency Response System called Red Alert. Will use the Edmond Town Hall phones so that the ID on the other end appears as Town of Newtown. This will help to minimize security concerns of phone call recipients. Because the survey was anonymous, we will be unable to call people by their name, but we will introduce ourselves consistently as Commissioners for the COA.

**Newsletter Improvements** – Printed copies of Brookfield, New Fairfield and Southbury newsletters and compared to ours. Contacted Vicki Boccuzzi to ask if she would be interested to join our improvement efforts as a Senior Center member. She agreed. Need to get dates from Marilyn so that we can all meet to discuss suggested improvements and put together an action plan.

**Message to Pat Llodra with Questions about Senior Center Improvements** – The attached questions were sent to Pat Llodra in September when she met with Curt Symes. Attached is her response. It seems that the CIP money set aside in the town budget won't be spent until 5 years from now. I am disappointed that we cannot do a few stopgap measures sooner. I would like to move forward with improvements here, regardless of CIP, etc. because the Newtown Community Center probably will not be built for at least two years. In the meantime we need to address improvements.



sheila torres <storresnewtown@gmail.com>

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## Senior Center Questions for Pat Llodra!

2 messages

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sheila torres <storresnewtown@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 2, 2015 at 1:20 PM

To: Curt Symes <CurtSymes@aol.com>

Cc: Pat Llodra <pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov>

Hi Curt and Pat,

I'm sorry to be late with my questions for your meeting. I hope you get this input from me in time for your meeting today.

### **SENIOR CENTER IMMEDIATE NEEDS – Sheila Torres**

Access to the \$500K set aside in the CIP to improve the Newtown Senior Center.

Use some of the CIP money to get an architect/designer to provide a solution using the space we have available now. The solution needs to be functional as well as aesthetic and needs to address the need for space that is open and flexible.

We need immediate attention to the following issues in our Senior Center:

- Parking lot and walks are unsafe and need replacement or very good repair.
- Entry way redesign, glass enclosure or weather shield needed ASAP
- Painting and sprucing up of the interior
- Reupholster furniture
- Audio visual/computer improvements: wi-fi; wall screen, projector, two laptops.

Monthly 'My Senior Center' fees should be added to the Senior Center

operating budget for next year. The COA is willing to purchase the equipment using the gift fund.

Sheila Torres  
storresnewtown@gmail.com  
203.426.0673  
475.529.5187(C)

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Pat Llodra <pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov>  
To: sheila torres <storresnewtown@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 2, 2015 at 4:10 PM

sheila...we discussed your questions. Use of the \$500,000 Senior Center design money for miscellaneous improvements is not going to work. We need to keep those funds in place at least until we know what the future is re a new center.

Facilities improvements (parking lot, walkways, entry, etc...) are appropriate for the CIP and will be in the recommendations proposed by the Strategic Plan for Municipal Facilities report. We have a 'place holder' in year 5 of the new CIP to address these recommendation for the multi-purpose bldg.

Furniture and technology request should be discussed first with Bob Tait for operating budget consideration.

Curt has all this - but please call me if you have any questions.

Pat  
[Quoted text hidden]

—  
E. Patricia Llodra  
First Selectman  
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