

**Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 21, 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, December 21, 2015 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Curt Symes called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Present: Curt Symes, Sheila Torres, Anne Rothstein, Ruby Ryles, John Boccuzzi, Anna Wiedemann, Margaret Imbro, Claire Theune, Lisa Krauss

Absent: Mae Schmidle, Barbara Bloom, Marilyn Place

Also Present: Ann Piccini

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Symes briefly announced that there still remains one open position on the commission.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Ms. Imbro made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from November 24, 2015, seconded by Ms. Theune and unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Symes did not present a formal report, but will discuss items as presented in the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Attachment A) – Ms. Wiedemann presented her report and asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Imbro made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ms. Rothstein and unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT: (Attachment B) – In Ms. Place's absence, Mr. Symes presented her report. Ms. Torres likes the format/summarization of the report and is happy to see more cultural programs being offered. She asked what the "Mornings with Marilyn" program consisted of; Mr. Boccuzzi said that it really was not being held. Since the S.A.C. was

disbanded, many newer active seniors have been going to other senior centers in the area including Southbury. Ms. Torres asked how well attended are the other programs being offered. Mr. Boccuzzi said that Bible Study, Current Events, and Bingo are going well. The Men's Breakfast has lost attendance since speakers are no longer allowed to attend. The Exercise Programs do very well and, in fact, are overcrowded. Ms. Torres asked whether offering the Exercise Programs offsite i.e., Edmond Town Hall Gym would be a possibility. Mr. Boccuzzi said that he would be concerned that attendance would drop if classes were held at a different location.

Mr. Boccuzzi reported that he has received the check from the grant for the Ceramics Program and he would like to get good publicity for the program done and get it put into place by March 1st. He said that 20 seniors could join the program which would meet twice a month at the Senior Center. An advanced program at the Arts Center in Brookfield would be offered to 8 people for an 8 week session. Ms. Torres, Ms. Ryles, and Ms. Imbro will help get the program publicized. Ms. Wiedemann suggested that The Bee update the Senior News Page which is already in place to include current announcements. Ms. Piccini said that the Library is always willing to distribute information to seniors as well as hold programs. Mr. Boccuzzi said that dates for the Ceramics Program need to be agreed upon with Ms. Place. At that point, a press release advertising the program can be put together.

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY: (Attachment C) - Ms. Piccini gave a brief synopsis of the proposed expansion of the Social Services Department. She said that Pat Llodra is looking to add a Clinical Social Worker and Care Navigator to the office (the grant used for the Recovery and Resiliency Center is being extended for another year to put these positions in place). She also reported that Operation Fuel has granted \$5,000 for their winter program to help with electric bills. This amount is consistent with other years and is based on the donations received by Operation Fuel throughout the year. Enrollment into Part D plans ended on December 7th. Donations to the Food Pantry and Gift Fund have been great and will be very helpful to clients.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Center Commission Status - Mr. Symes reported that the CCC is looking at a wish list including an ice rink, aquatic center, and community center space; if all is included in the center, the monies required would surpass the GE grant. The Legislative Council has since cut the C.I.P. in half for this project. The CCC now has to rethink the project and is looking at the plans which were proposed for the Senior Center Project as a model. Mr. Boccuzzi feels that the Community Center should be set up with the \$10 million GE grant and run by volunteers. This would keep the cost of membership low or free for residents.

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning & Prioritization of 2016 COA Activities – Ms. Torres presented her 2016 Goals Input (Attachment D). She feels strongly about gathering people from the broader community to support a new Senior Center. She suggested a plan for an affordable “box” that could be a bump-out to whatever the Community Center ends up being. Mr. Symes stated that Canaan House is going to be razed and it is possible that a piece of that property may be designated for

a new Senior Center. Ms. Theune asked about the size of the building. The original plan of 12,000 square feet may not be necessary; the Senior Center could be approximately 7,000 square feet if located next to the Community Center and Newtown Youth Academy (where seniors can also make use of those facilities).

Mr. Symes stated that the COA will be finalizing a position on the critical need for the town to finally fund the new Senior Center that has been earmarked in the CIP for the past 10+ years. This will be reviewed with the BOS, LC and FC. In addition, a COA-sponsored Senior Newsletter will begin starting in 1Q16 and focusing on key town-wide issues.

There being no further business, **Mr. Boccuzzi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.**, seconded by Ms. Theune and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann LoBosco, Clerk

AH. A

SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/R	C/D	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	NEW SENIOR CENTER	GRANT	BALANCE
7/1/15	Beginning Balance						43,169.00
7/6/2015	DONATION- TAUNTON PRESS- T-3319		150.00				43,319.00
7/6/2015	DONATION- NEWTOWN LIONS CLUB- T-3320		1,000.00				44,319.00
7/20/2015	TRUST DISTRIBUTION- T-5727			598.40			44,917.40
7/30/2015	Ck #19567- Holiday Inq(3 STAFF/GUESTS)		(310.00)				44,607.40
7/30/2015	Ck #19532- Alan Devalen(White House Speaker)		(100.00)				44,507.40
8/12/2015	S.C. TEE SHIRT- T-9066			10.00			44,517.40
9/17/2015	Ck #20233 Arthur Gottlieb- History Pres- Sept/Oct/Nov		(330.00)				44,187.40
10/23/2015	TRUST DISTRIBUTION- T-23697			598.40			44,785.80
10/29/2015	Ck #20828- CS Consulting & Services		(125.00)				44,660.80
10/29/2015	Ck #20875- Image One		(495.60)				44,165.20
11/12/2015	Ck #21130- Rafael Sgammato- Music Therapy		(150.00)				44,015.20
11/12/2015	Ck # 21092- Michael's At the Grove- Deposit for Xmas party		(200.00)				43,815.20
11/19/2015	Annual Holiday Bazaar- T28709			2,463.75			46,278.95
11/30/2015	Bazaar Monies T30656		50.00				46,328.95
12/3/2015	Ck #21428- Michael's At The Grove- Holiday Party		(725.00)				45,603.95
12/3/2015	Ck #21426- Sean Mckee- DJ for Holiday Party		(250.00)				45,353.95
12/8/2015	Bazaar monies T-32152			20.00			45,373.95
12/10/2015	Ck #21526- Rafael Sgammato- Music for Dec 18		(150.00)				45,223.95
			(2835.60)	3,693.75		1,196.80	45,223.95
7/29/2015	ck #19744-Claudia Landwehr					(200.00)	45,023.95
7/29/2015	ck #19721-Susan Bradley					(200.00)	44,823.95
7/29/2015	ck #19722-Eileen Byrnes					(200.00)	44,623.95
8/6/2015	ck#19638-Susan Bradley					(160.00)	44,463.95
8/6/2015	ck#19640-Eileen Byrnes					(160.00)	44,303.95
8/6/2015	ck#19675-Claudia Landwehr					(160.00)	44,143.95
9/7/2015	Grant Received					1,090.00	45,233.95
9/10/2015	Ck# 20185- Eileen Byrnes					(160.00)	45,073.95
9/17/2015	Ck #20260- Claudia Landwehr					(160.00)	44,913.95

COMPLETED EVENTS:

- Cultural Speaker Arthur Gottlieb topic, Eiffel Tower Nov 17
- Music Therapy Drum Circle Nov 19
- Fall Prevention Intro w/ Health Dept & BVNA Nov 20
- Care Network Lunch and Learn Nov 24
- Trim the Tree Dec 4
- Annual Holiday Party Dec 9 snow date Dec 14
- Quilted Holiday ornament craft w/ Marilyn Dec 11
- Journey of a Caregiver Dec 15
- Annual holiday cookie swap Dec 17
- Holiday Bingo Dec 17
- Holiday Gathering @ Nunnawauk Dec 18

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- AARP Income Tax assistance Feb 8 – April 11th.
- "Walking on Eggshells" The Journey of a Caregiver, interactive discussion Jan 13@11:30
- Recycle Bingo Jan 14th
- Red Dress Friday Heart Healthy Presentation Feb 5 @ 2:00
- Valentine Iris Fold Feb 8

Trips:

- Mohegan Sun Day trip Jan 13
- Mohegan Sun Overnight Jan 27-28
- 35th Annual CT Flower Show & Garden Show Feb 18
- Irish Eyes are Smiling @ Ace in the Hole productions trip March 17
- UCONN Women's Basketball AAC March 6

New programs:

1. Intergenerational craft program w/ CAC every 2nd Thursday
2. Bible Study Wednesdays @ 2:30
3. Mornings with Marilyn Thursday @ 10
4. Cake Nurse w/ Linda Pinckney RN regional Hospice every 3rd Monday @ 2
5. Bingo sponsored by Lutheran Home once a month
6. Wheel of Fortune sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care once a month
7. Inter-generational "Tips and Tricks on everyday technology" Friday @ 2:30

More Upcoming Events for Seniors :

Eagle Scout Service Project....Life Scout Sebastian Allan Fotinopoulos

Computer Operation Senior Lessons starting Friday Jan 8 @ 3:00

He will be supplying laptops.

Also, lessons will be at Nunnawauk Meadows for the residents on week-ends.

GIFT FUND: \$310 was deposited from the Annual Holiday Party Raffle

Happy Holidays

Keeping the seniors busy and active.

Marilyn





Ann Piccini
Ann Piccini <ann.piccini@newtown-ct.gov>

Meeting December 21,2015

1 message

Ann Piccini <ann.piccini@newtown-ct.gov>

Fri, Dec 18, 2015 at 5:41 PM

To: Curt Symes <CurtSymes@aol.com>

Municipal Agent for the Elderly/ Director of Social Services

We have completed One Hundred Thirty One Fuel Applications. Fifty Eight Seniors Applied and twenty one Disabled. We had one senior apply for a new furnace which was granted.

Operation Fuel has granted me \$5000 for the winter program.

On Dec 7 was the last day to change the drug card for seniors. We still are receiving phone calls as they do not remember what the new card name is. It is in the computer under the Medicare .gov web site. Then the information on the person is put in and it will tell what the most recent drug card is. Anyone one who receives the Medicare Savings Program can change their drug card several times during the year if they end up with a medication that is not on the drug card they have.

Christmas Baskets went well. Eighty two families or single persons received baskets. Seventeen Disabled and eighteen Seniors.

Donations have been great. Newtown Savings and Teir One brought in a lot of food today.

We have completed 18 applications for food (SNAP) and Health Insurance. We completed 24 Medicare Savings Program applications. This covers their \$104.90 and their prescriptions for \$2.65 to \$6.70. In 2016 the new amount for Part B will be \$121.00 for anyone signing up to Social Security and Medicare.

Ann Piccini

A.H. D

Sheila Torres – 2016 Goals Input for COA

- 1. Seek new senior center for Newtown located at Fairfield Hills by doing the following:**
 - a. Lobbying town leaders and state and federal legislative leaders
 - b. Communicating with the broader community (residents, political leaders, etc. through a COA newsletter about the needs of the Newtown seniors
 - c. Generating interest in a strong senior volunteer group
 - d. Seeking support from seniors at the voting booth
 - e. Obtaining a plan for an affordable “box” that could be a bump-out to whatever the community center ends up being.
 - f. Using the volunteers to furnish,
- 2. Launch quarterly COA newsletter**
 - a. Develop editorial board
 - b. Develop editorial calendar
 - c. Tie editorial calendar to issues that matter to our senior population based survey results.
- 3. Make use of digital platform that Ruby is involved with (through Bucks Foundation) to leverage all lobbying and communication efforts.**
- 4. Seek any grant money that could help us with programming for current and the new space.**