

**Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting
Monday, April 18, 2016 @ 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, April 18, 2016 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Curt Symes called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present: Curt Symes, Sheila Torres, John Boccuzzi, Margaret Imbro, Barbara Bloom, Anna Wiedemann, Mae Schmidle, Ruby Ryles, Lisa Krauss, George Guidera, Claire Theune

Absent: Anne Rothstein, Marilyn Place

Also Present: Ann Piccini and 2 members of the public

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Symes stated that since the referendum for the Community Center has passed, we now need to concentrate our attention on, once again, advocating for New Dedicated Senior Space, Facilities and near-term Expanded Programs.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: LeReine Frampton, 6 Pebble Road, held the first craft group at Nunnawauk Meadows. Approximately 12 seniors were present at any given times during the day. They knitted mittens & chemo caps; sewing machines were available as well. She received very positive feedback and all had a great time. Mr. Symes commented that this feedback is indicative of the need for more programs, like this, for seniors to participate in.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Ms. Wiedemann made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from March 21, 2016,
seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: (Attachment A) - Mr. Symes highlighted his report and said that the key message is "there is a way forward" in terms of future Senior Center space and programs. Currently there is \$2.5 million in the 2017 CIP that can be appropriated for the building of a new Senior Center add-on to the Community Center. Awareness and sympathy is "now" out there for the plight of Newtown seniors.

The NHS Dinner & Play ("Beauty and the Beast") had a huge turnout and seniors very much enjoyed the evening meal and performance. Included with the Chairman's Report is a calendar of upcoming Newtown School Arts & Music Activities. He encouraged everyone to attend the

“Technology Fair for Older Adults” taking place at the C.H. Booth Library on Wednesday, May 4th at 2:00 p.m.

TREASURER’S REPORT: (Attachment B) – Ms. Wiedemann presented her report. Mr. Symes asked to put together a financial calendar of future events throughout the year in order to create a timeline for budgeting.

Ms. Bloom made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented, seconded by Ms. Schmidle and unanimously approved.

OPTIONS FOR SENIOR ADVOCACY: Ms. Torres said that one of the priorities of the COA was forming a senior advocacy group. She invited Eva Bermudez Zimmerman to speak about forming non-profits. Eva was previously a member of the Legislative Council and is currently taking a non-profit management class.

She stated that every 501 status has different tax implications. A 501(c)(3) is a non-profit with no political ties and the government is very particular about how funds are used. A 501(c)(4) has no cap on fundraising and no paperwork is needed to file for lobbying. Examples of a 501(c)(4) include a volunteer fire department, Planned Parenthood, and Emily’s List. A 501(c)(5) is a political action committee (PAC).

Eva recommends using an attorney to set up either a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4). The process can take 1-2 years for a non-profit to get approved by the IRS. She mentioned a group called Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) which is a nationwide organization whose focus is on senior advocacy. There is a Connecticut Chapter where the COA can get further information.

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT: No report due to Ms. Place’s absence.

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY: (Attachment C) - Ms. Piccini reported that energy assistance applications will be accepted until May 1st for gas or electric customers. The Renter’s Rebate program has begun; the Senior Tax Credit applications must be completed by May 15th. She also reported that the state is considering elimination of the Legislative Executive Commission on Aging (small team) and people are encouraged to contact their legislators about the matter. Mr. Boccuzzi brought up the fact that Southbury has raised their Senior Center dues to \$25 for out-of-towners and would like to bring the topic up to Ms. Place upon her return.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Newtown Senior Communications – Mr. Symes encouraged everyone to continue getting awareness out there with respect to senior issues. Mr. Boccuzzi said that more programming is key and that locations other than the Senior Center should be considered to

hold activities. Ms. Torres and the COA Commissioners feel very strongly that the environment of a center matters greatly to seniors. The current Senior Center's environment including parking, bathroom facilities, etc. should be audited.

Ms. Schmidle commented from her role as Town Clerk in the mid-1970s that the Senior Center was conceived as an add-on to the new Children's Adventure Center in order to relocate the fledgling Newtown Senior Services Program from the not easily accessible Alexandria Room on the upper floor of Edmond town Hall (pre-elevator).

Mr. Guidera, a former Weston 1st Selectman, State Representative and recently seated as a member of the COA, voiced strong concern over the facilities available for Seniors here in Newtown.

There being no further business, **Ms. Imbro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.**, seconded by Ms. Theune and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann LoBosco, Clerk

AH. A

Newtown Commission on Aging (COA) - Chairman Report - 4/18/16 Meeting

Welcome to our April COA Meeting which will begin to chart "the way forward" for the Seniors of Newtown, regarding Plans to pursue future Senior Center Space Facilities & Programs.

At this point in time with the passage of the Community Center Referendum on April 5th, the path is now clear in terms of how to work toward a new, improved and dedicated Senior Facility. There is currently \$2.5M identified in the 2017 CIP that could be appropriated for the building of a New Senior Center add-on to the Community Center. Near term, the Senior Center will have the capability to Schedule Programs at the Shared Space components of the Community Center, once constructed. Another potential exists for using Shared Space at one of the Newtown Schools, like the Middle School, should it be taken out of service by the BOE.

Over the course of the past 6 months and recent four (4) Senior-Boomer Forums, we have now achieved an Awareness of, Attention to and Sympathy for the plight of the Seniors of Newtown, regarding the inadequate facilities and shortage of both space and program capabilities. This was clearly pointed out by a great many of the Seniors who attended and spoke, both openly and candidly, at & around the 4 Forums conducted prior to the referendum. I feel that we now have both a mandate and call to action to be proactive on behalf of both the COA & the Seniors of Newtown!

Since our last meeting, late March and early April have been very busy with a great number of programs and activities for the Seniors – NHS Dinner & Play, NMS Dinner & Play, etc. The Newtown Schools' Spring Performance Calendar has now been published and is available here at the Senior Center.

May is officially designated Older Americans Month (OAM) by the U.S. Government and recognizes Seniors for their contributions to volunteerism, etc. across the country. It also helps to focus on Senior Benefits, like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

To date, we have now made presentations to, had discussions with and helped to educate the BOS, BOF & LC, regarding the importance of Seniors to Newtown.

This month we will also kickoff our long overdue initiative to both update and synchronize our various COA Documents.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Symes

Chair, Newtown COA

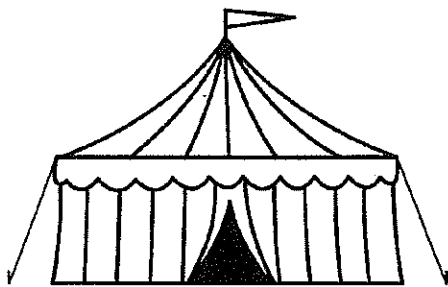


Technology Fair for Older Adults

at the C. H. Booth Library, 25 Main Street, Newtown

Wednesday, May 4

2:00-3:00pm



Come to the Technology Fair!

Learn what's available in the library and on its website!

Discover how to get hands-on help at the library!

Visit the Technology Petting Zoo and see what devices
may be right for you!

Sign-up for a library card!

Refreshments will be served!

No registration necessary. For more information, call (203) 426-8552 or go to
www.chboothlibrary.org





Newtown Public Schools Visual and Performing Arts Department
Performance Calendar – Spring 2016

Michelle Hiscavich, Director of Visual and Performing Arts

Apr.	20	NHS Composers Concert, 7:00 p.m.	NHS
	26	NMS Celebration of the Arts, 6:00 p.m.	NMS
	29-30	RIS Musical (Ap. 29 @ 7:00 p.m.; Ap. 30 @ 6:00 p.m.)	RIS
	29 – May 16	RIS Art Show	RIS
May	4	HOM 4 th Grade Chorus Spring Concert and Art Show, 7:00 p.m.	HOM
	4	Hawley 4 th Grade Chorus Spring Concert and Art Show, 7:00 p.m.	Hawley
	4	SH Art Show	SH
	9	MG 4 th Grade Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	10	NMS 7 th Grade Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	11	NMS 8 th Grade Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	12	SH Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.	NMS
	13	MG Art Show, 5:00-8:00 p.m.	MG
	16	RIS Gr. 5-6 Chorus, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	18	NHS Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.	WCSU
	19	Newtown Night of Jazz, 7:00 p.m.	NHS
	23	NHS Orchestra Concert, 7:00 p.m.	WCSU
	24	NHS Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.	WCSU
	25	RIS 6 th Grade Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	26	RIS 5 th Grade Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
June	1	RIS Gr. 5 & Gr. 6 Orchestra, 7:00 p.m.	RIS
	4-5	Unified Theater Production (Jun. 4 @ 6:00 p.m.; Jun. 5 @ 2:00 p.m.)	NHS



All students will create, perform, respond, and connect with understanding to all of the arts, including visual arts, music, theatre, and dance. Students will develop in-depth skills in at least one art form, appreciate the importance of the arts in expressing human experiences, and be prepared to apply their arts knowledge and skills throughout their lifetime.

Ann.C



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

Commission on Aging Meeting April 18, 2016

1 message

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

Fri, Apr 15, 2016 at 5:06 PM

To: Curt Symes <CurtSymes@aol.com>

We are still completing applications for fuel with the State CEAP Program. If they heat with Oil they can still apply and it will cover a delivery that they have not paid for yet. All others applying that have electric or gas can do so till May 1, 2016.

Operation Fuel which is a Non Profit Program and they give me a budget which is \$5000.00. I had two requests this week for help with an electric bill with a shut off notice. I have submitted the applications and am waiting for Operation Fuel to grant.

It is Senior Tax Credit for home owners and we are making sure they get the applications completed by May 15, 2016.

Renters Rebate applications have started. These applications are for elderly age 65 and over and totally disabled persons who rent and are low income.

On Friday I requested an oil delivery for an elderly woman to be paid for by Salvation Army.

I have been helping an elderly man for about a year to get his pension. We have succeeded. He came in last Thursday with the good news. He will receive \$355 a month. This will help him as his Social Security is \$1070 a month and his rent is \$950 a month.

I had an email last week saying the Governor has targeted the Commission on Aging for elimination. The Gov. is planning to put the Commission under the State Dept. on Aging. Will give you the email on Monday with appropriate numbers to call.

We have completed Eighteen Medicare Savings Application or renewals. Thirteen SNAP and Navigated twelve Health Care Insurance applications.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Piccini