

**Commission on Aging  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 16, 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, May 16, 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, John Boccuzzi, Margaret Imbro, Barbara Bloom, Anna Wiedemann, Anne Rothstein, Ruby Ryles, Lisa Krauss

**Absent:** Sheila Torres, Claire Theune, George Guidera, Mae Schmidle

**Also Present:** Marilyn Place, Ann Piccini and 3 members of the public

**BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Symes reminded everyone the Senior Prom will be held this Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and tickets are still available. The Newtown Public Schools Music and Arts Program is continuing to offer events through June.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Officer McCarthy said the Police Explorers group is available to assist with events such as the Senior Prom; they can assist in parking cars and helping transport seniors from their cars to the event. Mr. Symes thanked Officer McCarthy for highlighting this capability and sees great value in its future COA and senior program use.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

**Ms. Imbro made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from April 18, 2016,** seconded by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** (Attachment A) - Mr. Symes wants the discussion to continue from last month's meeting focusing on "the way forward" for the seniors of Newtown and how best to rally seniors to communicate their needs. He has examined senior population numbers according to age groups of seniors living in Newtown and hopes to develop profile and impact statements which can help acknowledge both their roles and needs in the community. The Community Center Commission has now completed and the BOS has appointed an Advisory Group to assist in the planning and construction of the center. The original Architecture/Design and Construction Management firms are still in place from the earlier 2014 work.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Attachment B) – Ms. Wiedemann presented her report. She did receive a list from Ms. Place of future events and will include them in her report next month.

She also thanked Officer McCarthy for her information on phone scams which she was able to distribute to seniors who are receiving Meals on Wheels.

**Ms. Boccuzzi made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented**, seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT:** (Attachment C) - Ms. Place thanked Ms. Wiedemann and Officer McCarthy for their help with Senior Appreciation Day. She reported that the Mother's Day Tea was very successful. The Senior Prom is scheduled for Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the High School; transportation is offered for Nunnawauk Meadows residents. The Senior Center received an anonymous donation of a brand new 60" television which will be put up this week. A cabinet is needed for the DVD player, etc. Ms. Place is requesting that funding be allocated to purchase a cabinet. She will also be doing the flower boxes soon and requires \$200 to purchase flowers.

**Mr. Boccuzzi made a motion to allocate funds from the Gift Fund for flowers in the amount of \$200.00**, seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

**Mr. Boccuzzi made a motion to allocate up to \$500.00 from the Gift Fund for the purchase of a cabinet**, seconded by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved.

**MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY:** (Attachment D) - Ms. Piccini reported that the fuel assistance program has been extended to May 31, 2016. Operation Fuel is continuing to help with emergency shutoff situations. Ms. Piccini is calling seniors to remind them to apply for the senior tax credit. Renter's Rebate applications will continue to be accepted until the end of September. A discussion then ensued regarding the scope, coverage and extent of the current Newtown senior tax credit program vs. other local communities, like Ridgefield, etc.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

*Next Steps Community Center* – Mr. Symes reported that Canaan House at Fairfield Hills is currently being taken down and located in proximity to the future Community Center site. He is working on a proposal for funding of a "New Senior Center" to be attached to the Community & Aquatics Center, as a next step. Mr. Boccuzzi said that in planning the design of the Community Center thought should be given as to how things can be easily integrated.

*Options for Senior Advocacy* – Mr. Boccuzzi held a very successful, initial, interested parties meeting for a "Friends of Newtown Seniors" group that will work with senior services, social services, churches, etc. to serve the needs of seniors who are 60 years of age and older and living in Newtown. A nominating committee was formed and will appoint officers as well as look to increase membership. A 501(c)3 will be formed as well which makes grant writing possible. There will be no paid staff. The group is not against anything, but rather is a group that is for seniors. One of the senior projects they are interested in is having a "shredding day" for seniors. Mr. Boccuzzi said a truck can be rented for \$250.00 per hour to do the shredding.

**Ms. Imbro made a motion to sponsor a Senior Shredding Day at the Senior Center and initially allocate up to \$500.00 from the Gift Fund to cover costs**, seconded by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved.

*Newtown Senior Communications* – Mr. Boccuzzi commended Ms. Ryles for the great job she has done with the COA Brochure and Website Planning. He would also like to see a regular column written about seniors in The Bee. Ms. Ryles suggested creating a Newtown Seniors Profile and will collaborate with Mr. Symes, utilizing data from previous COA surveys and research analysis over the past 2 years.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Board of Finance & 2017 CIP Funding of a New Senior Center* – The Board of Finance has identified \$500,000 in the 2017 CIP to be used for continuing the New Senior Center Design started in 2014. Mr. Symes said that key messages need to be presented to the Board of Finance, etc. including the fact that after 13 years of planning the seniors are in dire need of a new, enlarged space, facilities and programs. This 2017 CIP Design Funding would then enable the allocation of another \$2.5M currently in the 2017 CIP that could be used for construction of the new center.

In closing Mr. Symes asked each of the Commissioners for an email (ASAP) with their thoughts and perspectives on the “Top 3 Newtown Senior Needs”. This information will be incorporated into upcoming presentations to Newtown Officials.

There being no further business, **Ms. Wiedemann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.**, seconded by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann LoBosco, Clerk

AH. A

**Newtown Commission on Aging (COA) - Chairman Report - 5/16/16 Meeting**

Welcome to our May COA Meeting which will continue the focus on "the way forward" for the Seniors of Newtown, regarding Plans to pursue future Senior Center Space, Facilities & Programs.

May is also National Older Americans Month which acknowledges the role and recognition of Seniors in today's society. Senior volunteerism, both here in Newtown and nation-wide, continues to be at an all-time high, given the exploding senior population here in Newtown, across CT and the U.S.

With the passage of the Community Center Referendum on April 5<sup>th</sup>, the path toward a New Senior Center is clearer than ever before. The \$2.5M in the 2017 CIP is fair game for appropriation toward the building of a New Senior Center, as an add-on to the Community Center. In the near term the Senior Center will have the capability to Schedule Programs in the Shared Space components of the Community Center, once constructed. Also, various facilities in Newtown have volunteered their facilities in the near term for use in expanding Senior Center Programs.

In addition, the BOF has identified \$500,000 in the 2017 CIP to be used for New Senior Center Design work which would build off the original Community Center-Senior Center "Advisory Group" Design Work of 2013 - 2015.

In helping to drive these activities the COA will be exploring the feasibility of encouraging a "501 or PAC" Group to rally unified "one voice" of senior support for these initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Symes

Chair, Newtown COA

A.H. B

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 Inn(3 STAFF/GUESTS)	(310.00)					44,607.40
7/30/2015	CK #19532- Alan Devalerio(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 Press- 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- T38709		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 Mckeel- 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
12/18/2015	Holiday Bazaar Raffle- T-34351		310.00				45,533.95
1/21/2016	TRUST DISTRIBUTION- T-37791			557.46			46,091.41
4/19/2016	TRUST DISTRIBUTION T-51771			557.46			46,648.87
4/19/2016	TRUST DISTRIBUTION (Add'l Inl.) T-51772	(2835.60)	4,003.75	358.00	2,669.72		47,006.87





## COMPLETED EVENTS:

- Annual Fish Luncheon March 20
- AARP Safety Driver Program March 20
- Lunch and Lecture on Foot Care w/ Dr Huynh March 22
- Craft of the Month w/ Mary & Dottie March 24
- Dance Teams from The Lathrop School of Dance April 7
- Fostering Senior Dogs Lunch and Learn ( Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation) April 8
- "Walking on Eggshells" The Journey of a Caregiver, interactive discussion April 20
- Annual Mother's Day Tea May 6
- AARP Income Tax assistance Feb 8 – April 11<sup>th</sup>

## UPCOMING EVENT:

- Masonicare Lunch and Learn Cooking Demo May 13
- Craft of the month....Native American Talking Stick w/ Toni May 19
- Sounds of Springtime w/ Billy Michaels May 19
- AARP Safety Program June 3
- Music Entertainment by Bob Mell June 8
- Newtown Comprehensive Foot Care on Diabetes June 17

## TRIPS:

- Warner Theatre "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" May 15 (Sunday)
- Will & Anthony Music from Broadway @ the Aqua Turf May 27
- Saint Clements Castle June 16
- One World Observatory & the Spirit of NY June 22
- The Boston Pops @ Tanglewood July 10
- Old Sturbridge Village Lunch & Cabaret July 27

## OVERNIGHT TRIPS:

- Best of Bar Harbor May 31 – June 3
- Mackinac Island July 12-19
- Lake George and Saratoga August 10-12
- New Bushkill Inn in the Poconos Sept 19-22
- Autumn in Lancaster, PA including Samson Oct 19-21

## CRUISES:

- Alaska Cruise Tour May 29- June 8
- Canada & New England Oct 8 -15
- Hawaii Oct 29-Nov 5
- Florida & The Bahamas Feb 19-26, 2017

## New programs:

1. Pottery Class starts March 9 continues for 24 classes every other Wed. 1-4
2. Inter-generational craft program w/ CAC ongoing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday
3. Bible Study Wednesdays @ 2:30
4. Mornings with Marilyn ongoing every morning
5. Keno sponsored by Golden Opportunities every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday @ 2:00
6. Inter-generational "Tips and Tricks on everyday technology" ongoing every Friday @ 2:30
7. Reading program w/ CAC every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @ 10:00 doing very well
8. Ongoing Hot Dog luncheon once a month
9. Craft of the Month (alternates w/ different senior volunteers) 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month



The New Pottery Class began Wednesday March 9 1-4. 17 participated. ALL are enjoying it. Continues every other Wednesday. We have to iron out a few things as we go along. Most important is that each participant has a good experience and maybe continues w/ pottery in the future. They understand the importance of having an "art room" in the future where there is a kiln and pottery wheels and a "slop" sink. All in all these rooms at the Center are well used!

**Lunch and Learns will continue with some great info seminars:**

1. Interactive Cooking Demo w/ Masonicare May 13
2. Your Foot and Diabetes Friday June 17

**Cultural History Series: Continues w/ Arthur Gottlieb LSCW ( 3 new dates)**

June 16 Intrepid

July 20 Long Island Sound

Aug 18 Margaret Burke White

**ONCE A MONTH CRAFT CLASS:**

This has taken off with positive inter-action!

Different seniors volunteer their creative knowledge to facilitate a craft, teach it and add to the items for the upcoming annual Bazaar in the Fall. A new member will be doing "The North American Talking Stick" on May 19.

**UPDATE:**

**Senior Appreciation Day** was a wonderful success. Many thanks goes out to Officer MH McCarthy for her TRIAD presentation on Frauds/Scams and introducing our new Chief of Police to the Seniors.

Pat Llodra spoke to the seniors and served hot dogs! Thank you!!!

Mitch Bolinsky brought watermelon, served and spoke to the seniors also.

Special thanks to Anna W. for her help in my absence.

**Annual Mother's Day TEA**

45 lovely ladies enjoyed a day of activities of bingo, socializing, and TEA and....

Many thanks to Sandy Hook Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary who donated painted potted pansies for each senior! Also, Simpson & Vail donated a variety of teas for the special day. So many volunteered to make this annual event a success besides the staff with baking, cooking, prepping, set-up and cleanup....

Karin Aurelia, Barbara Oronato, Barbara Millard, Bob Sharpe, Sylvia Battista, Marianne Posser, Angie, Sharon, and Anna W.

**SENIOR PROM** is scheduled for Friday May 13 from 4-8 @ the HS cafeteria. \$10pp We are still taking sign-ups.

Transportation is offered for Nunnawauk Meadows residents. Why not join us!

**GOOD NEWS!**

A BRAND NEW FLAT SCREEN 60 INCH TV WAS DONATED BY AN ANYONMOUS SUPPORTER OF THE SENIOR CENTER!

Will be put up this week.

\*\* Linda Pickeney LRN from Hospice in Danbury (she did the Senior Fair in Southbury last year for the seniors which was a success) I saw her recently whereas she offered to sponsor the Senior Fair at our Center in the Fall. I will continue to have dialogue with Linda to have this come together.

**Senior Services Gift Fund:**

At the end of May is the time to do the flower boxes and potted plants ...as in the past I'm requesting the amount of \$200 more or less , receipt to follow, for the purchase of flowers from the Gift Account.

Happy Spring!

Keeping the seniors busy and active.

Marilyn



Att. D



Ann LoBosco &lt;ann.lobosco@newtown-ct.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Commission on Aging May 16,2016**

1 message

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**CurtSymes@aol.com** <CurtSymes@aol.com>

Mon, May 16, 2016 at 2:21 PM

To: ann.lobosco@newtown-ct.gov

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From: ann.piccini@newtown-ct.gov  
To: CurtSymes@aol.com  
Sent: 5/13/2016 4:50:32 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
Subj: Commission on Aging May 16,2016

The State of Ct Ceap program has extended their program to May 31, 2016. Not as many applications were done this year with the mild winter and the low oil prices.

Operation Fuel is only doing applications for electric with a shut off. The applicant has to be low income and they have to have made 4 payments within this last year. I had four applications with shut off notice and only two were granted. The third owed over \$2000 and had only made two payments last summer. The forth owed \$14,000 and had only made two payments in July and Aug 2015. I can usually get assistance which will pay up to \$500 from Operation Fuel and Salvation Army or The Newtown Fund will also help to get the family up to date but they are saying no because a couple of hundred dollars is a drop in the bucket. Eversource wants people to call and make a payment arrangement and keep that arrangement and they will take money off the outstanding bill every six months.

Called several seniors and checked with the Tax office to make sure my low income clients had their applications completed.

Renters Rebate applications are being done. Applications will be taken till the end of September.

We have completed Fifteen Medicare Savings Applications. Nine SNAP and Navigated eleven Health Care Insurance applications.

Respectfullu submitted by Ann Piccini