



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES

August 15, 2016 – Senior Center

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

Absent: Anne Rothstein, John Boccuzzi Sr.

Also Present: Marilyn Place, Director of Senior Services

Mr. Symes called the meeting of August 15, 2016 to order at 5:07pm.

Chairman's Report (Attached): Mr. Symes wanted to congratulate Ann LoBosco on receiving the title Director of Social Services, and Ms. Place is excited to welcome her into the office for a handful of hours a week. He then regretted to inform the Commission of the passing of Lesley Sharpe, wife of Bob Sharpe. The COA offers their condolences, and greatly appreciates all that the couple has done for the Senior Center.

Mr. Symes mentioned coming events (Newtown Cultural Arts Festival, Fairfield Hills Campus, September 17 and 18 and Health Fair, Reed Intermediate School, September 17, Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) & COA Senior Shredding Day, October 1). He said that local newspapers have been interested in reporting on the needs of seniors, and is hoping to use that as visibility for 2017 CIP New Senior Center funding awareness and publicity.

Minutes: With no changes, Ms. Bloom made a motion to accept the minutes of July 18, 2016. Ms. Imbro seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Participation: Karen Aurelia, 10 Cherry Street, was upset about being placed on an email list from FONS, and did not want any further correspondence. Discussion ensued about the relationship with FONS and the COA, and Ms. Torres thought it would be a good idea to foster more communication to the seniors to clarify the objectives/relationships between the groups. Mary Helen McCarthy, 3 Main Street, spoke to a previous topic of free COA giveaways at the Arts Festival by showing eye glasses cleaners with a printed logo. She also had new business cards which included contacts for the different Newtown Senior Functions to facilitate communication between the public and necessary groups. Stephen Rosenblatt, 50 Watkins Drive, felt that there should be no perceived competitiveness between COA and FONS, and wanted to provide the seniors with good information about the groups.

Discussion Items:

1. Ms. Wiedemann dispensed a revised version of the by-laws for members to review and discuss at the next meeting.
2. Mr. Symes explained the CIP funding as a multi-month adventure. The process for approval goes from the Board of Selectmen to the Board of Finance, then the Legislative Council. January of 2017 is the estimated time for final approvals. To his knowledge, there is still a 3 million dollar line item for the Senior Center.
3. Ms. Bloom gave an update of FONS, agreeing with earlier discussion that they will work to get seniors and participating services in the same loop, possibly by doing info sessions at the Senior Center.
4. Ms. Ryles said that the website funding is going better than expected, and they will be establishing an advisory committee between the partaking towns.
5. Ms. Wiedemann distributed a financial report (attached).
6. Ms. Place informed the Commission about recent technical issues that she has encountered, that will be fixed soon. She went over many of the events coming up, and was pleased to tell the COA about a projector and sound system that was being homed at the senior center. This will be available for use thanks to the Newtown Cultural Arts Commission. Ms. Place passed around a clipping from the Newtown Bee, with a picture captioned *Intergenerational Fun at Senior Center*. This is a program that began years ago, courtesy of Ms. Schmidle.

After some brief discussion about the importance of senior citizens in the community, and necessary changes moving forwards, the meeting came to a close.

Ms. Schmidle made a motion to send sentiments to Mr. Sharpe on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Guidera seconded. All were in favor and arrangements will be made.

Mr. Guidera made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Bloom seconded. All members were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Georgia Contois, Clerk

COMPLETED EVENTS:

- Arthur Gottlieb presentation on Long Island Sound July 20
- Wellness Presentation Series w/ Arthur Gottlieb LCSW Effective Communication Skills Aug 10

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Lunch and Learn and Bingo w/ Regional Hospice August 17
- Arthur Gottlieb presentation on Margaret Burke White August 18

TRIPS:

- Lobster fest and Patsy Cline Tribute Aug 25
- The Dupree's at Grand Oak Villa Aug 31
- Mohegan Sun Sept 13
- An American in Paris on Broadway Sept 14
- The Marcells At Grand Oak Villa Sept 20
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum Oct 5



OVERNIGHT TRIPS:

- New Bushkill Inn in the Poconos Sept 19-22
- Autumn in Lancaster, PA including Samson Oct 19-21

CRUISES:

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

CLINICS/Screenings /Workshops:

1. Flu Shot Clinics are scheduled w/ BVNA Sept 13, 27, from 9-12. Oct 11, from 10-12
2. Podiatry Screening Oct 21 from 10-12
3. Fall Prevention Workshop 8 week course through Dept of Health TBA

SPEAKERS:

1. Charlene Wicks from WCAAA showing and demonstrating Assistive Technology Sept 13
2. Dr Varrano Sept 30
3. Janet Barrett author of "They Called her Reckless" a true story of a War Horse Oct 4
4. TRIAD..... Medicare Fraud and Abuse w/ Dawn Macary Oct 20

Lunch and Learns will continue with some great info seminars:

1. Regional Hospice and Home Care August 17
2. Masonicare will discuss Balance Sept 23
3. Hearing Loss & Dementia Is there a link? Oct 12

Cultural History Series: Continues w/ Arthur Gottlieb LSCW

Aug 18 Margaret Burke White

ANNUAL PICNICS :

1. 2016 Annual Statewide Senior Outing @ Holiday Hill is scheduled Monday August 8. Is sold out. Transportation provided by HARTransit, plus the van.
2. Annual Newtown Senior Picnic Friday September 16 @ Masonicare @ 11:30 .

UPDATE:

1. I have partnered w/ Nunnawauk Meadows and Arthur Gottlieb LCSW to do a Wellness Presentation series. 1st is scheduled on August 10 at 10am. Topic is "Effective Communication Skills"..... This particular topic was very interesting, those who attended requested a follow up. I am meeting with Arthur Gottlieb on Thursday to finalize the schedule.
2. After everyone is back from vacation from Dept. of Senior Services, Dept of Social Services, Social Worker, VNA, and Senior Advocate Police Officer, we will meet to discuss and plan revising the Friendly Visitor Program.
3. The Center puts out info at the front desk for cooling stations in our Town and tidbits on keeping cool.... but we also encourage to check in on your neighbor. The past 2 weeks in this heat I called many on my list (esp. those I haven't seen in a while) to check in on them.
4. The Center's annual Bazaar is scheduled for the first Saturday in Nov. If you have a craft to make and donate, or like to bake for the Bake sale and items to donate for the White Elephant roomcall me.
5. Planning for the Annual Holiday Party..... TBA
6. Membership for the NSC are due.\$20pp a year for resident...\$25pp non-resident. Dues have increased this year by \$5 due to keeping the format of not charging per class. Still the best bargain in Town!

Keeping the seniors busy and active.

Marilyn



A. **Nominating committee** has completed a slate of officers except treasurer for October vote

B. **Activities committee** has planned the following

1. **August 17** -All are invited to an open house Wednesday August 17 at 5:30 beer, wine, barbecue at Newtown Youth Academy please RSVP to John Boccuzzi if you will attend.
2. **September 11** -Request support of the Commission and senior services for a special senior concert planned by Newtown Park and Rec and Friends of Newtown for September 11 12:30-4:00 at Dickenson.
3. **September 13**- Next meeting of Friends of Newtown Seniors is September 13 all invited please RSVP to John Boccuzzi. 5:30 light dinner on 9/13 at Maplewood Newtown, mount pleasant road.
4. **September 17 and 18**- Friends of Newtown Seniors will have a booth next to the Commission on Aging at the cultural arts Fair
5. **October 1**- Cosponsoring shredding event on October 1 10 to 1 with commission, respectfully request that funds be divided between the two organizations. Friends funds would be used toward expenses related to phone, post office box, website and necessary funds to incorporate and establish 501c3 status.
6. **September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20**- Livwell program at Newtown youth and Family services request support of Commission and senior services in promoting these classes aimed at managing chronic diseases. This is consistent with requests from both senior services and the commission for activities outside of the senior center for seniors.
7. **October 5**- All invited Cocktails and conversation 5:00 start time a strictly social get together at Rizzutos restaurant 6 Stony Hill Plaza RSVP to John Boccuzzi \$12 charge covers one drink and great snacks- all proceeds support expenses related to phone, post office box, website and necessary funds to incorporate and establish 501c3 status.
8. **October 11**- all invited to October 11 5:30 meeting of Friends of Newtown Seniors at Maplewood of Newtown- light dinner provided.
9. **November 8** - all invited to November 8 5:30 meeting of Friends of Newtown Seniors at Maplewood of Newtown- light dinner provided.

John S. Boccuzzi Sr. 57 Queen Street Newtown, CT 06470

Fiscal /fundraising has begun planning fund raising activities

Publicity/ information/outreach- Are finalizing the launch of our on-line presence- web page facebook and email all will be up and running soon with electronic newsletter ready by October
Sunshine- has reached out to both senior services and social services and will work with any interested group to help develop a caring outreach to seniors in need.

Health and wellness- Just getting organized

Volunteer coordination- Just getting organized

Grants- Investigating cooperation with agencies including the Commission on aging to procure grant funding for programs at various venues

Government- Oversight of activities in town related to government functions, have been attending meetings of government bodies

Newtown Commission on Aging (COA) - Chairman Report – 8/15/16 Meeting

Welcome to our August COA Meeting and build-up to the celebration of National Senior Center Month in September. September will be a very important month not only for its National Senior Center recognition but more importantly on the local level for its timing in the reviews & recommendations process of the Newtown 2017 CIP Funding initiatives, specific to the long awaited & overdue (since 2003) New Senior Center.

If Newtown is to step-up to its role within the surrounding, regional communities in being recognized as a senior-friendly, Aging-in-Place town then a commitment to a New Senior Center with Expanded Senior Programs is paramount and effects all of our 5,000+ Seniors, age 60 and older.

As this past Sunday's Danbury News-Times, front-page article highlighted, the CT senior population is growing exponentially and surrounding towns need to invest in their seniors socialization and needs. It was pointed out, as the COA had determined back in the 2013-2014 Community Center analysis, that the majority of the local surrounding towns and beyond have already invested significantly in Senior Center Expansions.

In fact, just recently a local facility that has been following the saga of the New Newtown Senior Center for many years came forward with an attractive offer-proposal to host a new, customized Senior Center within their existing environment at Fairfield Hills.

Currently, the new Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) group sees a New Senior Center as critical to the success of future Senior Programs and a key facilitator for expanded Socialization, especially now with the new Community Center underway.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Symes

Chair, Newtown COA