

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 18, 2024

Newtown Senior Center

8 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470

Called to order at 4:00 pm

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

Present: Bill Darrin, Barbara Bloom, Patricia Bailey, Judit DeStefano **zoom**, Claire Theune, Anne Rothestein **zoom**, Xiao Han, Tricia Gogliettino, Stephen Riccitelli **zoom**, Jack Kitterman

Absent: LeReine Frampton, Micheal Stern

Also Present: Director of Human Services Natalie Griffith, Director of Nunnawauk Meadows Mary Salley, 1 member of the public and one member of the press, one police officer

Public Comment: Police Officer Mary Helen McCarthy shared that she enjoys working with Natalie Griffith and her staff. The Police's goal is to get people the help that they need. Working with Human Services and Natalie Griffith, the people get the help they need and do an excellent job together. Also, an arrest was made after a four-month investigation by the police department for an incident of elder abuse with a patient who has dementia at a local rehabilitation facility.

Minutes: A. Rothestein moved to approve the minutes of the 2/26/24 meeting. W. Darrin seconded, all in favor.

Director of Human Services: Natalie Griffith reviewed her report. (att.). Natalie Griffith spoke about the two grants, AARP flagship grant was submitted on March 6th, this is to add enhancements to complement the AARPA grant already awarded to build a patio at the Newtown Senior Center. She is also meeting with The First Selectman and John Boccuzzi (FONS) to discuss a possible grant for transportation through The WCAAA. This grant could enhance the Hart Bus to fill holes in the transportation access for the senior community of Newtown. Natalie also commented that most basic benefits have been exhausted during the heating/energy season. With the help of community partners like The Lions, The Salvation Army, and the Newtown Fund emergency needs are being met.

The Women In Newtown are making 150 Easter Baskets for families with children who identify as in need through Human Services as well as Children's Adventure Center.

The Renter Rebate program is opening up on April 1st. This is a CT program for seniors or the disabled

to provide some compensation back for renters. \$900 for married couples and \$700 for single people. Based on a graduated income scale.

Every month Natalie submits a participation report for the Senior Center. Staff are working to encourage members to swipe in to get a more accurate participation rate.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was not received

Old Business: Discussion of the online Facebook survey with J. DeStefano (att.). 25 responses. COA members concluded that they do not see a need for a service for UR Community Cares at this time. This would be a duplication of services with Chore Services.

N. Griffith spoke on Beverly Bennett-Schaedler and her rides program through FONS. Rides for seniors to get folks out of the house for non-medical rides. A. Rothstein wants to keep educating people on the Chore Services.

No new business

Members Comments: B. Bloom mentions she wants to explore strategic planning to access any gaps in senior center programming throughout the day.

N. Griffith spoke about the Senior Center now that it is fully staffed and the Senior Center staff works very hard to fill the calendar with many activities daily. The staff are always open to new ideas and introductions to possible presenters and instructors. N. Griffith emphasized partnering with the COA to identify seniors in need of support and resources, not engaged with the senior center.

Having no further **business**, the meeting **was** adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Devereaux,

Clerk

Attachment: **Report** from Director of Human Services and Survey results from Judit DeStefano



Department of Human Services

Supporting a high quality of life for the Newtown community through services, programs and information that promote mental, physical and social well-being.

Commission on Aging Report: March 18, 2024

Dear Members of the COA,

For those who celebrate, I hope you had a joyful St. Patrick's Day. Today is our own St. Patrick's celebration at the Senior Center. We are looking forward to a fun-filled event with live Irish music and a full, traditional St. Pat's meal prepared for us by the Blue Colony Diner. With spring in the air we look forward to several upcoming favorite annual events, including the Spring Fling in partnership with Parks and Recreation. The culinary program at NHS will be preparing a delicious meal and the Senior Center's own Matt Ames will be the DJ and MC again this year. He had the dance floor packed last year. We're optimistic this year is going to be an even bigger success!

On the grant front we submitted the Flagship Grant through AARP on March 6th. Notice of awards happen mid-May. If awarded we will look to these additional funds to connect the new front patio with the back patio area already established and add fencing to aid in privacy and safety, as a barrier from the parking lot. Later this week I will be meeting with the Selectman and the President of Friends of Newtown Seniors to discuss a grant opportunity through Western CT Area Agency on Aging for transportation. We will be discussing potential strategies to add additional service for older residents that will be in addition to existing service through the SweetHART bus. I will report back on this at our April meeting.

On the social services front a few key items to note:

Energy Assistance: we are at the tail end of the energy assistance program. The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) helps Connecticut residents afford to heat their homes. Basic benefits towards heating range between \$180 to \$530 depending on income level, household size and whether there is a vulnerable member in the household. At this point in the season we see many households have exhausted their benefit and need some additional assistance to get through heating season. DHS has been very fortunate to be able to meet these needs through funds for emergency aid in the Town budget and through our incredible partners who designate funds for heating assistance each year, most specifically the Lions, Salvation Army, and the Newtown Fund.

Easter Baskets: thanks for the annual effort of the Women In Newtown, today and tomorrow families identified by DHS as in need with small children are able to pick up an Easter basket for each child from our offices.

Renter's Rebate: State law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut renters who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Persons renting an apartment or room or living in cooperative housing, or a mobile home may be eligible for this program. Renters' rebates can be up to \$900 for married couples and \$700 for single persons. The renters' rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments. This program opens applications on April 1st. Applications can be completed with Jackie Watson in our office.

Hope to see you on the dance floor with us at the Spring Fling, Friday, April 5th!

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie

Natalie Griffith, LCSW
Director, Newtown Human Services

People that were active between 02/15/2024 and 03/15/2024

Age Range as of 03/15/2024	Count	Percent
Ages 60-64	3	12.0%
Ages 65-69	8	32.0%
Ages 70-74	3	12.0%
Ages 75-79	2	8.0%
Ages 80-84	5	20.0%
Ages Below 55	1	4.0%
Ages Over 85	3	12.0%
Totals	25	100%
City/Town	Count	Percent
In Town	20	80.0%
Out of Town	5	20.0%
Totals	25	100%

Cuent Members

Resident	593
Non Resident	108
Total	701

Event Occurrences from 02/15/2024 to 03/15/2024

Category	Event	# of Events	Hours Scheduled	Unduplicated
F - Class/Workshop		3	3	11
	Art Class (Tuesday 10:00 AM)	4	8	19
	Knitting	5	5	27
	Sewing Crew	3	4.5	7
	Spanish Class (Thursday 10:30 AM)	5	5	14
	Theater Program	1	1	6
	Total	21	26.5	65
F - Health/Fitness				
	Broadway Burn (Friday 10:30 AM)	4	4	22
	Chair Pilates (Thursday 9:00 AM)	5	5	26
	Chair Yoga A (Monday 2:30 PM)	3	3	29
	Chair Yoga B (Thursday 1:00PM)	5	5	44
	Deep Stretch (Wednesday 9:00 AM)	3	3	21
	Fit and Fabulous	4	4	34
	Flex, Fit & Tone (Tuesday 10:00)	3	3	30
	Floor Yoga	9	9	42
	Kevin's Line Dance Exercise (Thursday 10:30 AM)	5	5	21
	Line/Country Dancing (Wednesday 10:30)	4	4	22
	Move and Groove	5	5	21
	Pilabolus	3	3	30
	Tai Chi (Monday 10:00AM)	3	3	24
	Zumba (Monday 1:00 PM)	3	3	19
	Total	59	59	187
F - Nutrition				
	Daily Lunch	8	8	24
	Total	8	8	24
F - Rec./Entertain				
	Billiards	23	115	19
	Total	23	115	19
F - Social Activity/Event				
	Book Club	1	1	6
	Lunch and Learn	2	2	27
	Matts Ballroom	3	3	12
	Pinochle	3	6	4
	Poker	4	12	10
	Special Event	4	4	33
	Special Event BINGO	1	1	17
	Total	18	29	70
F - Socializing				
	Socializing & Just Visiting	22	187.37	40
	Total	22	187.37	40
F - Special Events				
	Java With Jeff First Selectman	1	1	20
	Speaker	5	5	31
	Speaker AM	1	13	15
	Total	7	19	41
F - Special Groups				
	Parkinson Support Group	1	1	0
	Silver Tones	1	1.5	10
	Speaker 1:00PM	2	3.33	14
	Womens Discussion Group Chicken Soup for the	3	3	17
	Total	7	8.83	31
F - Trips				
	Special Event Newtown Commons	1	1	11
	Total	1	1	11
P - Health/Fitness				
	Ageless Grace	1	1	5
	Power Hour	2	2	13
	Total	3	3	18
P - Special Groups				
		1	1.33	11
	Art With Carol	1	1.33	10
	Total	2	2.66	13
P - Trips				
	Tours	1	3.17	10
	Tours Pulcinella Restaurant	1	-9	10
	Total	2	-5.83	13
	Grand Totals	173	453.53	296

Event Statistics from 02/15/2024 to 03/15/2024

Category	Duplicate	Unduplicated	60 and Over Guests	Under 60 (Hours	
F - Class/Workshop	23	7	0	0	30
F - Health/Fitness	58	11	0	0	58
F - Nutrition	14	7	0	0	14
F - Rec./Entertain	23	3	0	0	115
F - Social Activity/Event	21	8	0	0	27
F - Socializing	27	5	0	0	229.95
F - Special Events	11	5	0	0	35
F - Special Groups	5	3	0	0	6
P - Health/Fitness	2	1	0	0	2
P - Special Groups	2	1	0	0	2.67
P - Trips	2	1	0	0	0
Total Event Signins	188	25	0	0	519.62

Community Cares Interest

SUMMARY / DESIGN SURVEY / PREVIEW & SCORE > COLLECT RESPONSES > **ANALYZE RESULTS** / PRESENT RESULTS



MAXIMUM RESPONSE LIMIT You have reached your limit of 25 survey responses.
To see all 36 responses, upgrade to a paid plan.

Upgrade

QUESTION SUMMARIES

INSIGHTS AND DATA TRENDS

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

RESPONDENTS: 25 of 36

ADD TO DASHBOARD ▼

SAVE AS ▼

Page 1

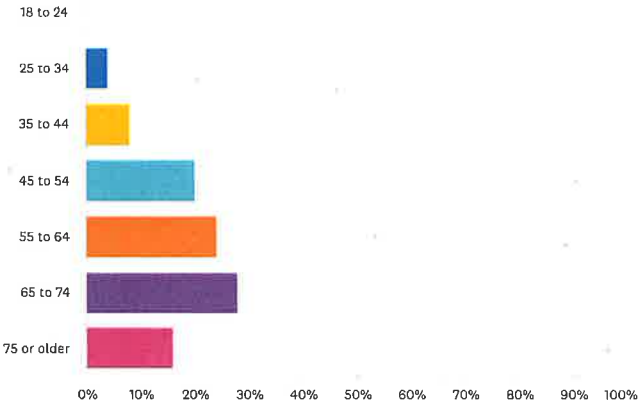
Q1

Customize

Save as ▼

What is your age?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

▼ 18 to 24	0.00%	0
▼ 25 to 34	4.00%	1
▼ 35 to 44	8.00%	2
▼ 45 to 54	20.00%	5
▼ 55 to 64	24.00%	6
▼ 65 to 74	28.00%	7
▼ 75 or older	16.00%	4
TOTAL		25

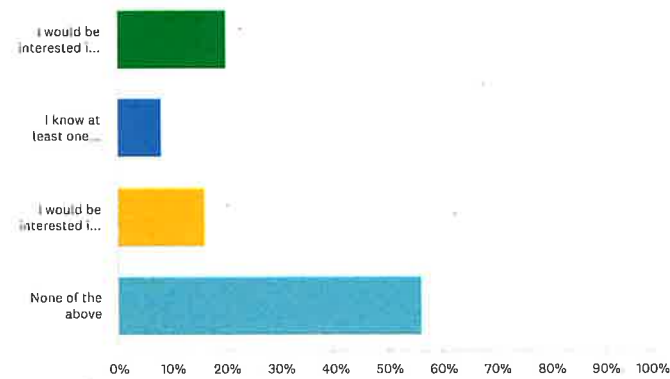
Q2

Customize

Save as ▼

Please select the option that best represents you:

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES



- ▼ I would be interested in volunteering
- ▼ I know at least one person who would be interested in volunteering
- ▼ I would be interested in volunteering AND I know at least one person who would be interested in volunteering
- ▼ None of the above

TOTAL

RESPONSES

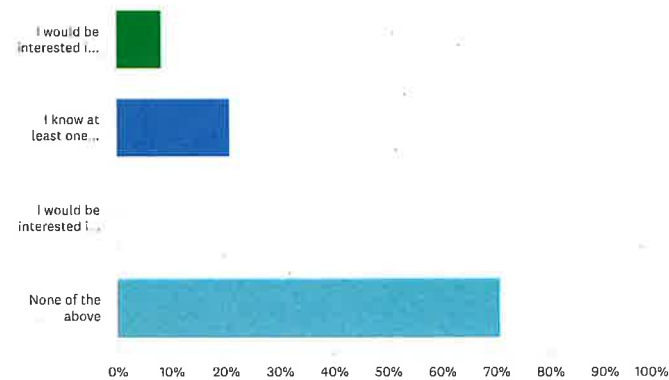
20.00%	5
8.00%	2
16.00%	4
56.00%	14
	25

Q3

 Customize  Save as

Please select the option that best represents you:

Answered: 24 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES

- ▼ I would be interested in requesting community deeds
- ▼ I know at least one person who would be interested in requesting community deeds
- ▼ I would be interested in requesting community deeds AND I know at least one person who would be interested in requesting community deeds
- ▼ None of the above

Total Respondents: 24

RESPONSES ▼

8.33%	2
20.83%	5
0.00%	0
70.83%	17

Q4

 Save as ▼

Please share any additional information you would like us to have.

Answered: 3 Skipped: 22

RESPONSES (3)

 WORD CLOUD TAGS (0) Sentiments: OFF

New!

Introducing Sentiment Analysis

Detect the feeling and sentiment behind written responses.

 Watch a demo Try it!

Upgrade

 Search Responses Filter: by tag ▼

Showing 3 responses

I believe there is a program already available to seniors in Newtown just like this already and it's free ! What's this cost?

12/22/2023 08:39 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)[Add tags](#)

Small carpentry jobs are almost impossible first to find someone and then find someone affordable. Hopefully this would be offered through this program.

12/16/2023 09:22 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)[Add tags](#)

If you move forward with this, please do THOROUGH vetting

12/15/2023 12:05 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)[Add tags](#)