

NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 15, 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, LeReine Frampton **zoom**, Claire Theune, Anne Rothestein **zoom**, Xiao Han, Patricia Gogliettino, Jack Kitterman, Micheal Stern

**Absent:** Judit DeStefano, Stephen Riccitelli

**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

**Public Comment: No public comment.**

**Minutes:** A. Rothestein moved to approve the minutes of the 3/18/24 meeting. W. Darrin seconded, all in favor.

**Director of Human Services:** N. Griffith conducted a review of her report, discussing the available ARPA funds in our region to assist seniors and disabled residents with transportation challenges through WCAAA. Newtown submitted a grant request of \$85,000 with an aim is to improve current services and increase efficiency by requesting with a multi-approach transportation solution. This plan includes providing rides within town to ease the strain on the Hart Bus system, ensuring its smooth operation. The proposal involves hiring a part-time transportation coordinator to optimize travel options for residents, inform them about available services, and coordinate rides.

FONS member Beverly Bennett-Schaedler initiated NeWtown Rides, a volunteer-based transportation service for Newtown residents, currently operating two days a week. The goal is to enhance transportation options for seniors in Newtown.

- The AARP and WCAAA grants are scheduled to be awarded in May.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report. L Frampton said they paid for the Newtown Senior Centers Shuffle Board Table. \$2888.15 was spent on the table. A. Rothestein moved to approve the treasury report W. Darrin seconded, all in favor.

**Old Business: No old business**

**New business:** N. Griffith requested additional funds to install another terminal for checking in Senior Center members. The challenge discussed at the last meeting included the difficulty of scanning all members in the busy foyer during classes, leading to some individuals needing help to bypass the check-in process. It was emphasized how crucial it is to track everyone in the building for safety reasons and to provide accurate reporting. The new terminal would serve as a gateway into the center, costing \$4,800. This expense was not included in N. Griffith's budget, along with an additional \$300 for an annual fee. The operating cost of \$1,800 per year is within her budget.

Members posed strategies and alternatives before investing in a second kiosk. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

**Members Comments:** Jack Kitterman introduced himself as the new alternate. Strategic planning will be put on the next agenda.

Having no further business. the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m. B. Bloom motioned to adjourn, P. Bailey seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wendy Devereaux.

**Clerk** Attachments: Report from Director of Human Services and Treasurer's Report



## 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: April 15, 2024

Hello members of the COA,

Thank you for your support of our submission of the grant to WCAA for transportation funds through ARPA dollars. The Town did submit a request for \$85k. Funds would help us enhance transportation options for seniors and those with disabilities, with the goal of coordinating safe, easy to use, affordable, and efficient transportation which will support aging in place initiatives and combat isolation.

Newtown has long been in discussions concerning transportation for older citizens and the challenges we face in meeting the needs. Newtown lacks a fixed route transportation system or taxi service, has inconsistent coverage through share ride services, and a dial-a-ride service with limitations on availability, coverage, and destinations. Previously FISH, the volunteer ride program, helped meet the need for transportation for medical appointments but they did not return to service after COVID. Newtown is a "small town" but spans 38,644 acres or 60.38 square miles, making it the fifth largest town, area-wise, in the state. This further compounds transportation challenges. Additionally, the majority of medical care needing to be accessed by our seniors is located out of town, straining current transportation resources due to the length of the ride.

While the Newtown Department of Human Services currently responds to transportation requests and challenges, this project would greatly increase the Department's ability to meet the needs and challenges effectively and efficiently. Grant funds will allow the Town of Newtown/Department of Human Services to economically augment the current service options to include Town provided rides and to conduct critical outreach to the senior community to connect residents to the various transportation resources. Rides will be scheduled in a timely manner by personalized service under Human Services, with door to door and door through door services being arranged when needed.

If we receive grant funds a part-time transportation coordinator position will be established. Rides using town drivers and vehicles, volunteers, SweetHART dial-a-ride bus service, ride services (Uber and Lyft), Be Driven LLC medical transport service, taxi and contracted car services will be scheduled based on need and individual circumstance. Grant funding will support the delivery of these services and supplement rider fares when needed based on financial need and other factors as determined by the Department of Human Services.

The town of Newtown has an excellent relationship with both HARTransit (contracted dial-a-ride service) and Be Driven LLC (specialized medical transport service). The Human Services Department often works in cooperation with out of town taxi services and Uber and Lyft in situations where no other option exists. Because there are no taxi services located in Newtown and ride programs such as Lyft and Uber do not have concentrated local drivers, services are inconsistent and costly due to service originating outside of town.

The Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) recently began a volunteer ride program, Newtown Rides, offering local rides on a limited basis. Newtown Rides is offering a much needed local ride service, bringing Newtown residents to shopping, social events, doctor appointments, visits with friends or any mobility within Newtown for any reason. Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) currently has 24 volunteer drivers offering rides during two days per week. This pilot program will expand over time to providing rides 7 days per week including evening events and eventually will expand to provide roundtrip services to surrounding towns not covered by HARTransit. **(see flyer attached)**

In a recent conversation with HARTransit the growing challenges of providing service in Newtown were highlighted including: the increasing strain on service due to the heavy demands of transporting the younger disabled population out of town to work (due to the changing model of Ability Beyond no longer providing transport for their clients); challenges getting drivers;

equipment; and even parts, all while struggling to meet the accelerated costs of operating a transportation system (many nearly tripling in recent years).

By coordinating local service from Newtown to surrounding towns, and increasing local ridership options within town, our efforts will help remove the growing strain on the existing dial-a-ride service provided by HARTransit. A small investment will return continued value as we bring together all of the available transportation resources.

Again thank you for your support of this endeavor and a special thank you to John Boccuzzi, President of Friends of Newtown Seniors, and Anne Rothstein for their efforts in pulling together what I believe is a strong application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Natalie Griffith, LCSW  
Director, Newtown Human Services

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## *Scenes from the Newtown Senior Spring Fling*

In partnership with Newtown Parks & Recreation and catered by the NHS Culinary Program

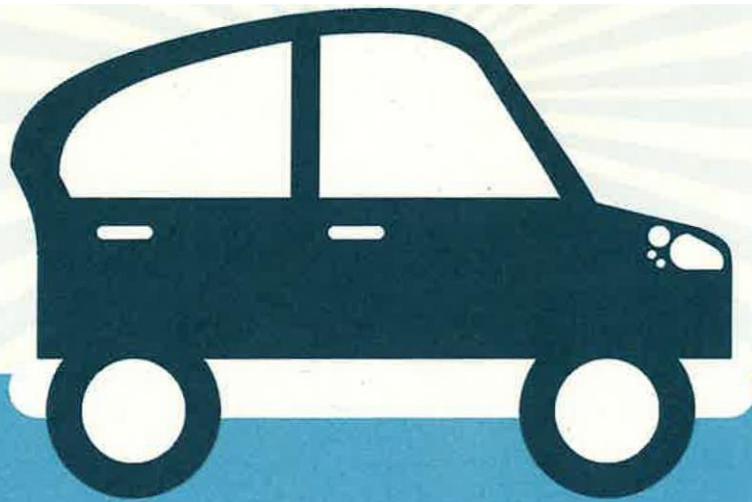
Over 60 seniors dining and dancing the evening away!



**FOR 55 PLUS SENIORS**

# Newtown Rides!

*Are you home alone? Unable to drive or don't have a car?*



The Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS) volunteer drivers are available to pick you up and take you to any "Newtown" location you wish to visit within a 2-hour time frame. Whether it's the grocery store, library, bank, having your hair done, visiting the Senior Center, or just out to lunch, Newtown Rides is here to assist you.

Our volunteers are available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 12 noon and/or 12 noon until 2 pm.

To arrange a day out please call three days in advance and a coordinator will return your call.

**Friends of Newtown Seniors are looking forward to seeing you!  
For more information or to book your special day  
please call and leave a message**

**203-430-0633**

People that were active between 03/12/2024 and 04/12/2024

| Age Range as of 04/12/2024 | Count | Percent |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|
| Ages 55-59                 | 1     | 3.0%    |
| Ages 60-64                 | 4     | 12.1%   |
| Ages 65-69                 | 9     | 27.3%   |
| Ages 70-74                 | 5     | 15.2%   |
| Ages 75-79                 | 3     | 9.1%    |
| Ages 80-84                 | 6     | 18.2%   |
| Ages Below 55              | 1     | 3.0%    |
| Ages Over 85               | 4     | 12.1%   |
| Totals                     | 33    | 100%    |
| City/Town                  | Count | Percent |
| In Town                    | 26    | 78.8%   |
| Out of Town                | 7     | 21.2%   |
| Totals                     | 33    | 100%    |

Curent Members

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Resident     | 614 |
| Non Resident | 116 |
| Total        | 730 |

Event Occurrences from 0311212024 to 0411212024

Filters:

Site(s):

All

| Category                  | Event   | #of Events | Hours Scheduled | Unduplicated |
|---------------------------|---|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| F - Class/Workshop        |   | 5          | 5               | 10           |
|                           | Art Class (Tuesday 10:00 AM)                    | 5          | 10              | 23           |
|                           | Knitting  | 4          | 4               | 25           |
|                           | Sewing Crew                                     | 4          | 6               | 5            |
|                           | Spanish Class (Thursday 10:30 AM)               | 5          | 5               | 13           |
|                           | Total   | 23         | 30              | 66           |
| F - Health/Fitness        |   | 4          | 4               | 23           |
|                           | Broadway Bum (Friday 10:30 AM)                  | 5          | 5               | 27           |
|                           | Chair Pilates (Thursday 9:00 AM)                | 6          | 6               | 31           |
|                           | Chair Yoga A (Monday 2:30PM)                    | 5          | 5               | 44           |
|                           | Deep Stretch (Wednesday 9:00 AM)                | 4          | 4               | 28           |
|                           | Fit and Fabulous                                | 5          | 5               | 34           |
|                           | Flex, Fit & Tone (Tuesday 10:00)                | 5          | 5               | 33           |
|                           | Floor Yoga                                      | 9          | 9               | 40           |
|                           | KeVins Line Dance Exercise (Thursday10:30AM)    | 5          | 5               | 29           |
|                           | Line/Country Dancing (Wednesday 10:30)          | 5          | 5               | 21           |
|                           | Move and Groove                                 | 5          | 5               | 27           |
|                           | Pilabolus                                       | 5          | 5               | 26           |
|                           | Tai Chi (Monday 10:00AM)                        | 4          | 4               | 24           |
|                           | Zumba (Monday 1:00 PM)                          | 4          | 4               | 25           |
|                           | Total   | 71         | 71              | 199          |
| F - Nutrition             |   | 10         | 10              | 38           |
|                           | Daily Lunch                                     | 10         | 10              | 38           |
|                           | Total   | 10         | 10              | 38           |
| F - Rec. Entertain        |   | 1          | 3.92            | 36           |
|                           | Billards Tournament ( Lunch)                    | 23         | 161             | 20           |
|                           | Total   | 24         | 164.92          | 43           |
| F - Social Activity/Event |   | 2          | 2               | 37           |
|                           | Lunch and Learn                                 | 5          | 5               | 14           |
|                           | Matts Ballroom                                  | 4          | 8               | 3            |
|                           | Pinochle  | 5          | 15              | 12           |
|                           | Poker   | 1          | 1               | 17           |
|                           | Special Event BINGO                             | 1          | 2               | 11           |
|                           | Special Event- Churchill village                | 18         | 33              | 66           |
|                           | Total   | 18         | 33              | 66           |
| F - Socializing           |   | 24         | 204.4           | 44           |
|                           | Socializing & Just Visiting                     | 24         | 204.4           | 44           |
|                           | Total   | 24         | 204.4           | 44           |
| F - Special Events        |   | 1          | 2               | 15           |
|                           | Java With Jeff First Selectman                  | 1          | 1               | 20           |
|                           | Speaker   | 2          | 2               | 25           |
|                           | Speaker AM                                      | 2          | 14              | 19           |
|                           | ST. Patties Day Party                           | 1          | 2               | 58           |
|                           | Total   | 7          | 21              | 85           |
| F - Special Groups        |   |            | 1               | 1            |
|                           | Parkinson Support Group                         | 3          | 4.5             | 13           |
|                           | Silver Tones                                    | 1          | 1.67            | 13           |
|                           | Speaker 1:OOPM                                  | 4          | 4               | 24           |
|                           | Speaker 2                                       | 1          | 1               | 17           |
|                           | Speaker 2 United Veterans Assistance            | 1          | 35              | 33           |
|                           | Spring Fling                                    | 4          | 4               | 16           |
|                           | Womens Discussion Group Chicken Soup for the Sc | 15         | 19.67           | 72           |
|                           | Total   | 15         | 19.67           | 72           |
| P - Health Screenings     |   |            | 2               | 6            |
|                           | Blood Pressure Screening (Thursday 9:30 AM)     |            | 2               | 6            |
|                           | Total   |            | 2               | 6            |
| P - Health/Fitness        |   | 1          | 1.5             | 7            |
|                           | CPR Class                                       | 5          | 5               | 22           |
|                           | Power Hour                                      |            |                 |              |
| P - Special Events        |   |            | 1.75            | 25           |
|                           | Solar Eclipse Party                             |            | 1.75            | 25           |
|                           | Total   |            | 1.75            | 25           |
| P - Special Groups        |   |            | 1.33            | 10           |
|                           | Art With Carol                                  |            | 1.33            | 10           |
|                           | Total   |            | 1.33            | 10           |
| P - Trips                 |   |            | 14              | 4            |
|                           | Tours   |            | 14              | 4            |
|                           | Total   |            | 14              | 4            |
|                           | Grand Totals                                    | 203        | 582.57          | 356          |

**Event Statistics from 03/12/2024 to 04/12/2024**

| <b>Category</b>            | <b>Duplicated</b> | <b>Unduplicated</b> | <b>60 and Over Guests</b> | <b>Under 60 ( Hours</b> |               |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| F - Class/Workshop         | 19                | 6                   | 0                         | 0                       | 26            |
| F - Health/Fitness         | 56                | 12                  | 0                         | 0                       | 56            |
| F- Nutrition               | 19                | 12                  | 0                         | 0                       | 19            |
| F - Rec./Entertain         | 34                | 7                   | 0                         | 0                       | 219.5         |
| F - Social Activity/Event  | 14                | 7                   | 0                         | 0                       | 20            |
| F - Socializing            | 32                | 8                   | 0                         | 0                       | 272.53        |
| F - Special Events         | 15                | 9                   | 0                         | 0                       | 47            |
| F - Special Groups         | 21                | 7                   | 0                         | 0                       | 35.33         |
| P - Health/Fitness         | 1                 | 1                   | 0                         | 0                       | 1             |
| P - Off Site Excursions    | 2                 | 2                   | 0                         | 0                       | 6             |
| P - Special Events         | 3                 | 3                   | 0                         | 0                       | 5.25          |
| P- Trips                   | 1                 | 1                   | 0                         | 0                       | 14            |
| <b>Total Event Signins</b> | <b>217</b>        | <b>33</b>           | <b>0</b>                  | <b>0</b>                | <b>721.61</b> |

## COAISENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

| DATE       | RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS  | C/D        | C/R      | FRANK KNOTTS<br>TRUST FUND | BALANCE   |
|------------|---|------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 7/1/21     | Beginning Balance   |            |          |                            | 39,338.65 |
| 7/26/2021  | Qtrly DistribuonKnotts Trust2 00-16   |            |          | 705.75                     | 40,044.40 |
| 7130/2021  | Ck #45928Anna Wiedemann-Reim for Gift Card for Zach Macey & Ice Cream                       | (121.38)   |          |                            | 39,923.02 |
| 8/11/2021  | Donation for Suicide Prevention- Archdeacon Family Foundation                               |            | 525.00   |                            | 40,448.02 |
| 8/18/2021  | Donation from J. Albanasi for flowers for Dan & Anna Wiedemann event- 200-31                |            | 200.00   |                            | 40,648.02 |
| 9/2/2021   | Ck #46532- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for thank you dinner for crafters                           | (279.49)   |          |                            | 40,368.53 |
| 9/16/2021  | Ck #46747-John Voket-Grandparent Sock Hop   | (150.00)   |          |                            | 40,218.53 |
| 9/22/2021  | Bazaar-Donation 220-15  |            | 218.50   |                            | 40,437.03 |
| 9/28/2021  | Aug P-Card- Caraluzzi's- Flowers for Anna Wiedemann event                                   | (200.00)   |          |                            | 40,237.03 |
| 10/20/2021 | Bazaar-Donation 220-18  |            | 200.00   |                            | 40,437.03 |
| 10/29/2021 | Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust- 200-91   |            |          | 705.75                     | 41,142.78 |
| 10/31/2021 | Sept- P-Card- Amazon- Speaker refreshments-L. Passaro                                       | (29.12)    |          |                            | 41,113.66 |
| 11/4/2021  | Ck #47332- Planters Choice- Red Maple Tree- for recognition for those who died from suicide | (567.00)   |          |                            | 40,546.66 |
| 11/9/2021  | Bazaar- Donation 220-19   |            | 190.00   |                            | 40,736.66 |
| 11124/2021 | Bazaar- Donation 22Q-22   |            | 579.00   |                            | 41,315.66 |
| 11/30/2021 | Oct- P-Cards- The RD Store- Dishes for Senior Center  | (676.62)   |          |                            | 40,639.04 |
| 1211/2021  | Ck #47661- Anna Wiedemann- Reim for Bob Sharpe Plaque                                       | (15.95)    |          |                            | 40,623.09 |
| 12116/2021 | Donation-Bazaar 220-23  |            | 1,159.75 |                            | 41,782.84 |
| 12116/2021 | Donation- Archdeacon Family Foundation 220-24   |            | 5,000.00 |                            | 46,782.84 |
| 12/31/2021 | Qtrly Distribution- End of Year- Knotts Fund 200-153A                                       |            |          | 185.80                     | 46,968.64 |
| 1/25/2022  | Qtrly Distribution- Knotts Trust 200-172  |            |          | 767.00                     | 47,735.64 |
| 2/10/2022  | Ck #48513- Newtown Community Center- Senior Pottery Class                                   | (250.00)   |          |                            | 47,485.64 |
| 2118/2022  | Jan P-Card- Frames for artwork for Senior Center  | (1,095.06) |          |                            | 46,390.58 |
| 2/18/2022  | Jan P-Card- Large Screen TV & wall mount  | (2,260.96) |          |                            | 44,129.62 |
| 2122/2022  | Donation- Bazaar  |            | 652.50   |                            | 44,782.12 |
| 3/31/2022  | Feb P-Card- My Place- Senior Lunch for Valentines Day                                       | (466.97)   |          |                            | 44,315.15 |
| 3/31/2022  | Donations-Bazaar  |            | 155.00   |                            | 44,470.15 |
| 4/20/2022  | Donations- Bazaar   |            | 110.00   |                            | 44,580.15 |
| 4/28/2022  | Ck #49526- Ralph Corbo- Pool Tabla  | (2,500.00) |          |                            | 42,080.15 |
| 4129/2022  | Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-287   |            |          | 767.00                     | 42,647.15 |
| 515/2022   | Ck #49633- Newtown Community Center- Pottery Class  | (300.00)   |          |                            | 42,547.15 |
| 5/20/2022  | April P-Card- Stop & Shop- Refreshments for speaker at Senior Center                        | (26.15)    |          |                            | 42,521.00 |
| 5/20/2022  | April P-Card- The Villa- Thank you dinner for Senior Canter Grafters                        | (234.44)   |          |                            | 42,286.56 |
| 6/24/2022  | May P-Card- Big Y- Ice Cream Toppings- Senior Center Presentation                           | (17.09)    |          |                            | 42,269.47 |
| 6/24/2022  | May P-Card- Holy Cow- Ice Cream Cups- Senior Center Presentation                            | (138.00)   |          |                            | 42,131.47 |

GOA/SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

| DATE       | RECEJPTS/DISBURSEMENTS   | C/O      | CIR      | FRANKKNOTIS TRUST FUND | BALANCE   |
|------------|--|----------|----------|------------------------|-----------|
| 7/1/22     | Beginning Balance  |          |          |                        | 42,131.47 |
| 7/21/22    | Lions Bleeker- Pizza for Presentalion Program by Zack & Larry    | (170.74) |          |                        | 41,960.73 |
| 7/25/22    | July P-Card- Holy Cow-Ice Cream for Trivia with Zack & Lanny     | (56.35)  |          |                        | 41,904.38 |
| 7/25/22    | July P-Gard- Amazon- Replacement bingo cards                     | (44.97)  |          |                        | 41,859.41 |
| 7/25/22    | July P-Gard- Amazon- Bingo set & display Board                   | (92.05)  |          |                        | 41,767.36 |
| 8/2/2022   | Qtrly Dislribulion Knotts Trust1200-12                           |          |          | 767.00                 | 42,534.36 |
| 10/7/2022  | Ck #51758- Newlown Comm. Center- Senior Pottery Class            | (225.00) |          |                        | 42,309.36 |
| 10/28/2022 | Qlrlly Distribution Knotts Trust200-77                           |          |          | 767.00                 | 43,076.36 |
| 10/31/2022 | Deficiency payment for KnoUs Trust 12/31121 200-85               |          |          | 650.10                 | 43,726.46 |
| 12/23/2022 | Donation- Bazaar 220-15  |          | 1,229.00 |                        | 44,955.46 |
| 12/31/2022 | Nov P-Gard- Lion's Bleecker- Pizza Lunch-Senior Center           | (45.52)  |          |                        | 44,909.94 |
| 1/12/2023  | Ck #52986- Bee Publishing-craft fair ads                         | (121.60) |          |                        | 44,786.34 |
| 1/18/2023  | Donation-In memory of Larry Passaro- 220-15A                     |          | 1,000.00 |                        | 45,786.34 |
| 1/30/2023  | Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-160                          |          |          | 590.00                 | 46,376.34 |
| 1/31/2023  | Dec P-Gard- Restaurant Depot- Food for Holiday party             | (250.00) |          |                        | 46,126.34 |
| 1/31/2023  | Dec P-Gard- Lions Bleecker-Lunches for craft boutique volunteers | (51.61)  |          |                        | 46,076.73 |
| 1/31/2023  | Donation-In r11emory of Larry Passaro- 220-22                    |          | 100.00   |                        | 46,176.73 |
| 3/23/2023  | Feb P-Card- Uline- Art Tables and chair dolly **                 | (863.82) |          |                        | 45,312.91 |
| 3/31/2023  | Donation- Bazaar 220-40  |          | 526.00   |                        | 45,838.91 |
| 4/21/2023  | March P-Card- Bamwood- Lunches for craft volunteers              | (174.93) |          |                        | 45,663.96 |
| 4/30/2023  | Qtrly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-238                          |          |          | 590.00                 | 46,253.96 |
| 6/27/2023  | Craft pop-up sale 220-61   |          | 97.00    |                        | 46,350.98 |

over amount approved.

CONSENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

| DATE       | RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS                       | C/D        | C/R      | FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND | BALANCE   |
|------------|--|------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 7/1/23     | Beginning Balance                            |            |          |                         | 46,350.98 |
| 7/25/2023  | Knotts Trust 12-31-22 Deficiency w/d- 200-22 |            |          | 30.50                   | 46,381.48 |
| 7/25/2023  | Qrtly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-33       |            |          | 590.00                  | 46,971.48 |
| 8/31/2023  | Donation-Anne Rothstein- 220-9               |            | 2,000.00 |                         | 48,971.48 |
| 10/27/2023 | Qrtly Distribution Knotts Trust200-96        |            |          | 590.00                  | 49,561.48 |
| 2/20/2024  | Qrtly Distribution Knotts Trust 200-177      |            |          | 656.25                  | 50,217.73 |
| 2/20/2024  | Donation- Anne Rothstein 220-179             |            | 2,000.00 |                         | 52,217.73 |
| 3/31/2024  | Feb P-Card- Home Depot- Shuffle Board Table  | (2,888.15) |          |                         | 49,329.58 |