



James Krupienski
Acting Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

120 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Senior and Disabled Center



Jaime Trevethan
Director

**COMMISSION ON AGING AND DISABLED
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, April 5, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF NEWINGTON, CT
2023 MAY -8 AM 11:59
Town Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. in Senior & Disabled Center room A&B and via Zoom.

Commissioners present: Chairperson Brecher, Commissioner Frantz, Commissioner Lynch, Commissioner Nagel, Commissioner Sobieski, Commissioner Starr

Others present: Councilor David Nagel, Liaison to the COAD, Jaime Trevethan, SDC Director

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councilor Nagel provided an update on the budget process at the Council level. The Council discussed departmental budgets on March 25, with no major changes expected to the SDC budget. In addition, the proposed change to Code of Ordinances Section 8-16 has been amended to lower Commission on Aging and Disabled Membership from 9 to 7 members.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – 3-1-23 Special Meeting

Approval tabled until the next meeting

V. STAFF REPORT

A. Program and Service Report

SDC Director Jaime Trevethan provided an update on the Center’s current offerings during the past month such as:

- What I need to Know About My Electric Choices presented by AARP on 3/15
- Crafts such as Paint & Sip, Coffee, Coloring & Conversation and Easter Greeting Card Class
- Coffee and Conversation with State Reps on 3/3

Phone: (860) 665-8778 Fax: (860) 667-5835
tonscenter@newingtonct.gov
www.newingtonct.gov

First in State of Connecticut
Fully Accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers

- Informational programs about Polypharmacy, Medicaid and Balance & Strength
- The congregate lunch program continues to grow since reopening in April 2022, with an average daily participation of 40 members. Meals on Wheels is nearing a record high utilization with 59-62 residents receiving hot meals daily.
- The gift and coffee shops continue to run well. Volunteers are needed for both, particularly the coffee shop. Staff is working to recruit volunteers.
- The AARP Tax Aide Program is wrapping up for the season. IRS certified and trained volunteers will complete more than 230 tax returns free of charge during the course of the program.
- The Giving Garden is preparing for the spring. Outdoor cleanup is in progress and seedlings have been started indoors for several herbs and vegetables. Volunteers are needed in the garden.
- Daily regular in-person and remote activities continue to run smoothly and are well-attended.

B. NCOA Vaccine Uptake Initiative Grant

The Director indicated that the SDC has been awarded \$50,000 from the National Council on Aging for a COVID and flu vaccine uptake initiative. Newington will be the fiduciary for the Central CT Health District and member towns Wethersfield, Rocky Hill and Berlin. The funding is intended to help those with physical, medical, transportation or financial challenges obtain vaccinations. More info is to follow.

C. ARPA Funding for Senior Centers

More information regarding ARPA funding for senior centers is expected to be released from the State of CT Unit on Aging sometime in April. Newington is expected to receive \$90,000 in ARPA funds.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Budget Update (see Councilor Nagel's update above).

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Upcoming Activities

The Director listed some upcoming activities, including:

- A program on cultivating self-kindness and compassion
- Informational programs on bullying, reverse mortgagees and memory loss
- Craft classes such as greeting card classes, and other spring crafts
- A gardening presentation
- The Friends of the Library Book Sale
- The Newington Intergenerational Art Show, featuring artwork from Newington students grade K-12 and members of the Newington Art League

Phone: (860) 665-8778 Fax: (860) 667-5835
 srcenter@newingtonct.gov
 www.newingtonct.gov

First in State of Connecticut
Fully Accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers

B. Building Update

Chairperson Brecher inquired about the door counters. The Director indicated that the door counters have not worked properly since the pandemic. The IT department tried several fixes, including purchasing new batteries (the devices use specialized long-life batteries) but nothing has worked consistently. They will continue to investigate the issue.

Chairperson Brecher inquired about the possibility of repurposing the stage as a program space. The Director indicated that the Facilities Department is on board with the idea and will begin looking at the options when time permits.

The Director indicated that the lights in the Auditorium have been replaced with brighter, more efficient LED lights with covers to diffuse the lighting, making it much more suitable for daily use and various activities.

C. Consideration of Upcoming Purchases

The Director stated that the Giving Garden is adding additional raised beds on pallets this spring. Therefore, they are requesting additional fencing called "Critter Cages" to keep small animals from eating the crops. The same fencing has been used successfully throughout the garden over the past several years.

The cost of the fencing for the expanded raised beds would be approximately \$1,200, the best price found for the product.

Commissioner Sobieski moved to accept the purchase in the amount of \$1,200. Motion seconded by Commissioner Nagel. The motion passed 6-0.

D. Volunteer of the Year

The Commission discussed the Volunteer of the Year nomination process and Volunteer Recognition Dinner. The Commission agreed by consensus to hold the dinner in June, date TBD (note: the date was later set to Thursday, June 22 at 6:00 p.m.). They requested an outdoor event under a tent like the 2022 dinner, weather permitting.

The Director indicated that staff would collect nominations for the Volunteer of the Year and would present a recommendation to the Commission at the May meeting. The staff will also begin arranging for the event.

E. Determine Next Meeting Date & Agenda

The Commission agreed by consensus to meet as scheduled on May 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in Conference Room A&B with a Zoom option available.

Phone: (860) 665-8778 Fax: (860) 667-5835
srcenter@newingtonct.gov
www.newingtonct.gov

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Brecher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lynch. The motion passed 6-0.

Signed: 
Director, Newington Senior & Disabled Center

Phone: (860) 665-8778 Fax: (860) 667-5835
srcenter@newingtonct.gov
www.newingtonct.gov

First in State of Connecticut
Fully Accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers