Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS)
Roundtable

May 27, 2025, **Discussion Highlights** Newtown Senior Center

FONS 2025 Member Meeting

About the Meeting

On a 1, Could be better to 5, Outstanding scale responses are shown in the table below.

	Average Rating	Comments
Facility	3.9	
Food Quality	4.0	Quality was uneven
Food Service	4.3	
Beverage Service	4.2	
Slide Show	4.4	Got lost in all that was going on
Meeting Program	4.4	
Literature	4.3	Overload, too many pieces of paper Information table not visible enough

Responses to the question "What were some of the best foods" included

- Lemon Chicken, mentioned twice
- Chicken franchise
- Italian
- Eggplant
- Macarroni Dishes
- Pizza was sited as cold and thus not very appetizing
- Deserts looked great, but were disappointing

Regarding "What could FONS do better/different for the 2026 Meeting"

- More salads
- More diversity
- May not be necessary to have hot food . . .
- Access to coffee
- Less food
- Hold meeting before opening the food buffet
- Charge

Reasons to Move or Not Move to Newtown

Most Frequent Reasons to move to Newtown

Top responses:

- Senior Center
- Safe
- Nice, Friendly

- Schools
- Library
- Community Center
- Small, Rural, Laid back
- Beautiful. Historic

Town events sited:

- Halloween on Main St.
- Labor Day Parade
- Christmas Lights
- Hallway Exhibits at Municipal Center
- Farmer's Market
- Best Ice cream in the CT
- The Newtown Bee

More reasons to move to Newtown:

- Sense of community
- Clean Streets
- Access to retail, medical, parkways
- Senior groups are fun and there are so many
- Good senior services
- Restaurants
- FONS
- Garden clubs
- Many faith groups
- SCAN
- Victory Garden
- Flagpole photographers
- Hiking, kayaking, boating, fishing

Many responded that the moved to Newtown to be closer to family

Reasons not to move to Newtown

Most Frequent Responses

- Taxes
  No senior tax considerations
- If you don't have a car . .
- Traffic Congestion
  - The Flagpole
  - Hard to get around
- Lacking public transport or ride services (Uber/Lyft)

Other Responses

- Not walkable
- Speeding, reckless drivers
- Cost of living
- Housing
- Expensive
- Limited smaller housing options
- No town garbage collection

Suggestion for FONS 2025 Advocacy and Services

Advocacy

- Tax relief for seniors
- Housing – smaller and less costly
- Police enforcement to speed limits and passing on the right
- Sidewalks
    - Fairfield Hills
    - Sandy Hook to the Borough

Services

- Inter-generational events
- Expand ride service
  To medical in Danbury, Bethel, Southbury
- Consolidate links to various resources around town
  Publish them on FONS Facebook and Website

Knowing What's Going on in Newtown

Do you subscribe to The Newtown Bee? 78% Yes

How much of The Bee do you read each week? 67% of subscribers read most of it

Are there articles/sections in The Bee you read regularly?

- Front page
- Obituaries
- Real Estate
- Senior news
- Local news
- History – Way We Were

Do you access The Newtown Bee website? Only 10% regularly access the website. 45% never

A Newtown Community Calendar

Unanimous belief the Newtown needs a single community calendar.

In 2019 – 2020 a group worked on establishing a community calendar as part of the Livable Community initiative. It was unsuccessful.

Multiple opinions of where it should be housed. It is understood that to keep such a calendar requires good computer support and more importantly a person (up to full time) managing the content. Bot of these cost money. Suggested hosts include:

- A new community group specifically for the Calendar
- FONS
- The Bee
- Booth Library

Attendees viewed The Newtown Bee's calendar to discuss features needed in a community calendar.

- An example town event was not in the calendar
- An example event was in the calendar, but lacked sufficient information for attendance
- Filters
    - Limited to Search, Category and Location
    - Search for FONS did not produce any entries
    - Attendees did not find Category sufficient
    - Location was not found useful
        - Senior Center is not a location
        - There were four variations of Newtown Senior Center

Content in The Bee calendar can only be as good as what is submitted. Curating a calendar cost money for software and staff to