

Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2014

Present: Philip Mountain  
John Whritner  
Marge Caste  
Joe Palazzo  
Joan Bengtson

FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
Jan 15, 2014 AT 11:10 AM/PM  
Karin Galt  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: B. B. Smith  
Ilene Harris

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Senior Services Coordinator

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Chairman Mountain called the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of January 13, 2014 to order at 5:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

b. Delegations. There were no delegations.

c. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2013. Mr. Mountain asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2013.

MOTION: Joe Palazzo moved to accept the December 9, 2013 Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Marge Caste. (5-0) Unanimous.

c. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Commission members were asked for a slate of officers for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer.

MOTION: Mr. Whritner moved to nominate Philip Mountain as Chairman; Joe Palazzo as Vice Chairman and Ilene Harris as Secretary/Treasurer. Seconded by Marge Caste. (5-0) Unanimous.

There were no other nominations.

A vote was taken and Mr. Mountain was unanimously elected Chairman; Mr. Palazzo was unanimously elected Vice Chairman and Ilene Harris was unanimously elected Secretary/Treasurer.

d. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.

## 2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation. DOT is working on a report for the R-2. All vehicles were sent for quarterly maintenance. Ms. Wilson is looking into getting roof racks. She will contact the Highway Superintendent to get his opinion on equipment for removing snow off the roof of the vehicles. Mr. Palazzo suggested looking at squeegees. They will not scratch the roof.

b. Senior Trips.

(1) The following Enrichment Trips are planned: February 12 to Ocean Pizza in New London. Trip fee is \$3.00; February 26 Langley's Restaurant in the Great Neck Country Club in Waterford. Trip fee is \$3.00.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips. The following day trips are planned: April 10 to Rough Point, the Doris Duke Estate in Newport, Rhode Island, with time on your own at the Newport Wharf area. Lunch is included at the Atlantic Beach Club. Trip fee is \$85; April 26 to New York City on your own. Trip fee is \$46.

The following overnight trips are planned: March 24-25, 2014 for a special exhibit of "A Day in Pompeii" at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania a city tour and dinner on the Moshula for \$307 per person for double occupancy; April 22 to May 3, 2014 for the Wonders of Italy including 18 meals \$4632 per person for double occupancy; August 30 to September 14, 2014 for a transatlantic cruise from London to Boston on the Royal Caribbean Brilliance of the Seas, with airfare included \$2,299 per person (does not include taxes); October 7-9, 2014 Moses at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for two nights at the Cork Factory Hotel. The trip includes stops at Hershey Chocolate World and Wheatland House. The cost is \$407 per person for double occupancy; October 16-25, 2014 Memorial of War (Normandy and Paris) for airfare, 10 days and 13 meals \$3,849 per person for double occupancy.

c. Programs.

(1) Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson reported there are no issues with the Senior Nutrition Program. We have one opening for a volunteer driver.

(2) Senior Center Programs-Ongoing. Ms. Wilson reported we are starting to review attendance in our programs.

(3) Senior Center Programs – New. The AARP Tax Program will begin in February on every Monday and Friday. Access Health Care has been scheduled on February 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. PIYO class has started; line dancing has restarted and ping pong will begin on Monday mornings.

Ms. Wilson received a suggestion on a program on learning how to cook for one. In February TVCCA will give a cooking demonstration on chocolate.

Ms. Wilson and Mr. Putnam met with ELBOW (businesses in Niantic and East Lyme) last week.

d. Budget - General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson reported the budget is doing fine. Program supplies is the only item that is trending a little high.

e. Revenues - General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission that revenues for the General Fund are doing well.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Budget for FY 14/15. Ms. Wilson reported she met with the First Selectman, will meet with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.

b. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Bengtson asked if there was still an issue with transportation out of town? Ms. Wilson replied since we have no general store in town many individuals desire to go to Walmart, Target and the Crystal Mall. Dial-a-Ride helps with medical appointments. Ms. Bengtson suggested trying to keep business in town. She suggested recommending to ELBOW giving a discount on some items may discourage residents from going elsewhere.

Mr. Palazzo asked Ms. Wilson how she would like to rework the coffee area? She replied she would like to make it more inviting.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Introduction of New Board Member. Joan Bengtson was introduced to the Commission.

b. Donation to Senior Center. Ms. Wilson reported a gentlemen offered to reimburse the Parahus Account for the purchase of a ping pong table for the Senior Center. Ping pong will be offered at the Senior Center on Mondays at the end of the month.

MOTION: John Whritner moved to approve the expenditure of \$279 to purchase a ping pong table with funds from the Parahus Account. Seconded by Ms. Bengtson. (5-0) Unanimous.

c. Issues with the CT Department of Social Service. Ms. Wilson reported this past summer DSS restructured how individuals can apply for benefits. All information is scanned to Manchester, Connecticut. DSS wants applicants to set up an online account, which is difficult for many seniors.

d. SNAP Benefit Decrease. Ms. Wilson reported when the federal stimulus was put into place it sustained the SNAP Program. The minimum benefit is now \$14.

e. New Mandated Reporting for Senior Center Personnel. Ms. Wilson reported the State of Connecticut passed legislation which makes Senior Center mandated reporters of elderly abuse. She has been trained and will need to train her staff on abuse, neglect or exploitation of the elderly. Protective services says if you are not sure report it anyway.

f. Re-scheduling of February Meeting. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission she will be on vacation from February 7 and return on February 24. She asked the Commission to either consider canceling the meeting or rescheduling it to February 3.

MOTION: Mr. Palazzo moved to reschedule the February Meeting to February 3. Seconded by Ms. Bengtson. (5-0) Unanimous.

g. Program with Rite Aid. Ms. Wilson reported Rite Aid would like to have a Shingles Clinic and a Whooping Cough Clinic at the Senior Center. Mr. Whritner asked if the VNA offers this service? Ms. Wilson agreed to ask the VNA.

h. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Wilson reported panic buttons have been installed at the Senior Center, Library and Parks and Recreation. We also met with the town's insurance carrier last week regarding emergency management plans for the Community Center.

Mr. Palazzo expressed a safety concern with people coming into the kitchen after it has been raining. He suggested also reminding individuals to clean the grille after they have used it.

Ms. Wilson stated a list had been prepared of things to do before leaving the kitchen.

**5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

There was no public discussion.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. Whritner moved to adjourn the January 13, 2014 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (5-0)  
Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted



Frances Ghersi, Recording Secretary