

**EAST LYME COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 14th, 2014**

Present: Philip Mountain, Chairman, Joan Bengtson, Marge Caste, Ilene Harris,
Joe Palazzo, John Whritner, B.B. Smith

Also Present: Paul Formica, First Selectman
Cathy Wilson, Senior Services Coordinator

Absent: No One

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
April 26, 2014 AT 10:00 AM/PM
Bridget D. Flinn ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Chairman Mountain called the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of April 14, 2014 to order at 5:00 PM.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was observed.

b. Delegations

Mr. Mountain called for delegations.
There were no delegations.

c. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2014

Mr. Mountain called for any additions, deletions or corrections to the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2014.

****MOTION (1)**

Mr. Palazzo moved to approve the March 10, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Commission on Aging as presented.

Mr. Whritner seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 – 0 – 3. Motion passed.

Abstained: Ms. Caste, Ms. Bengtson, Ms. Harris

Ms. Wilson asked that they add to the agenda: under New Business - Item d. Incident Report.

****MOTION (2)**

Ms. Harris moved to add to the agenda – under New Business – Item d. Incident Report.

Ms. Caste seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

d. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation

Ms. Wilson reported that they are currently doing the quarterly inspections for the vehicles at the garage. Also, her regular part-time driver is away on vacation and she has coverage for him. She additionally said that the Smith Harris, Thomas Lee and Samuel Smith Houses which are part of the Historical

Society, have requested use of one of the vehicles for a June Open House event that they are doing. This has been approved by the Board of Selectmen as well as them and they will be using the vehicle for this event. In addition, the Lions have requested use of a vehicle for the annual Lobsterfest event in July to transport people back and forth to the event. It was noted that they have used the vehicle in the past for this event. They would need a motion to approve this use again this year.

****MOTION (3)**

Mr. Palazzo moved approval for the Lions to use one of the Senior Center vehicles for the Lobsterfest event in July.

Ms. Harris seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Wilson said that she would proceed with this.

b. Senior Trips

- (1) **Enrichment Trips** – Ms. Wilson reported that on Wednesday May 14, 2014 they would be going to Salem Country Gardens for plants and then to the Dinosaur Place with lunch on their own at David's Place; trip fee is \$3. Then, on Wednesday May 28, 2014 they will take a trip to Historic Wethersfield to walk around the Green and to visit different houses (Admission fees may be charged separately); Lunch on your own at restaurants around the Green; trip fee is \$4.

Ms. Wilson noted that they have been getting requests for Ivoryton and Goodspeed however, these trips so close to us would be expensive if they were to rent a motor coach plus the cost of the tickets and having to divide that cost amongst those who sign up to go. Further, tickets usually have to be purchased in advance with no refunds and in blocks of more than they can fit on the senior bus. She said that she would look into this more to see if there is the potential to do it sometime next year as they are pretty much set with trips for this year. She said that she would also look into what Old Saybrook does to see if they could work together on a few of these.

It was suggested that they subsidize the trip if possible.

Ms. Wilson said that all of the enrichment trips are already subsidized as the fee to ride does not cover the cost of staff, meals or the gas to run the bus.

- (2) **Day/Overnight Trips** – Ms. Wilson said that she has been working on the trips with Waterford and reported on the following upcoming day trips:
- May 6, 2014 - Radio City Stage Door & Lincoln Center Combo Tour \$76, Lots of walking
 - May 22, 2014 – Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum w/Space Shuttle Enterprise – \$73, Moderate walking
 - June 10, 2014 – Ayer Mansion & Church of the Covenant, \$72, Moderate walking
 - June 27, 2014 – Newport Flower Show at Rosecliff, \$66, Moderate walking
 - July ?? – A trip to Block Island is being planned, \$94 details to come
 - July 27, 2014 – Dixieland Jazz Cruise, Cape Cod Canal, \$85, Minimal walking
 - August ?? – Trip to the Metropolitan Museum & the Cloisters, \$86 details to come
 - September 7, 2014 – Lighthouse Cruise of Narragansett Bay, \$88
 - October 9, 2014 – Westchester Broadway Theater to see 'Ragtime'; includes meal, \$104
 - October 22, 2014 – Halloween in Salem MA; with Street Festival, \$88, details to come

(Note: Ms. Smith joined the meeting – 5:18 PM)

c. Programs

- (1) **Senior Nutrition Program** – Ms. Wilson reported that the TVCCA Site Server who was filling in has given her notice. She will continue to fill in until someone is found. Also one of the long time MOW drivers has given notice as they are going to have knee surgery. She said that this past Saturday TVCCA hosted their annual fundraiser event and she went. She said that it was a very nice event and well attended. They donated a basket for the silent auction from the Senior Center. She also reported that the Bistro program on Mondays where they order meals from TVCCA is not doing that well. They are not usually able to sell what they need to order on Monday but sometimes are able to sell them on Tuesdays. However, the congregate lunch program is now only four (4) days per week. She said that they are now at a \$400 loss on this program over two years. She suggested that they may want to consider moving this to the revolving account so that it can be offset by other revenue producing events.
- (2) **Senior Center Programs - Ongoing** – Ms. Wilson reported that she has started conversations with the program instructors whose programs have very weak attendance. She noted that with the weather getting better that attendance has been getting better.
- (3) **Senior Center Programs - New** – Ms. Wilson said that the ping pong has been popular and that people have been coming in with all sorts of ideas. They are looking into ukulele lessons and potentially sharing this with Waterford. Other things suggested were drumming, meditation and a cooking class for men.

d. Budget – General Fund, Revolving Account

Ms. Wilson reported that this is very tight and that if they stay as they are that they would barely make it to the end of the year. She is watching it very carefully.

e. Revenues – General Fund, Revolving Account

Ms. Wilson reported that this is doing fairly well.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Expansion of Senior Center

Ms. Wilson asked Mr. Formica to speak on this as she has already discussed it with him. There is a need for more room and she had thought of potentially bumping out the main dining area to the access driveway on the side of the building that faces the Smith Harris House.

Mr. Formica said that Ms. Wilson had been on his cable access show recently and was speaking about what the Senior Center provides and the various programs. They have also discussed the potential for adding space to the building. He explained about the 20/20 Vision Committee that has been working on all of the buildings in the Town and coming up with a plan. There are 88 buildings in Town and many questions were asked about the Town Hall and other prospective buildings. Anything to be done would need to be in the capital improvement plan so items such as the library expansion, Fire Department, etc were put into year five (5) of the plan. Also the School Committee has been looking in to the elementary schools and there is a thought of shuttering Niantic Center – if that is done – his thought is to re-purpose it as perhaps housing due to the location. He said that all of this is under study and there is a lot of conversation going on and still to go on about it. A study is expected by the end of this calendar year with something potentially presented for the spring of 2016 as anything the school decides would have to go to the State for a review which would take another year.

He said that they are also looking at the potential for some extra space for the Library and there are a lot of various parts to all of this with nothing being finalized for some three to five years. The short of it is that he does not see a duplication of efforts with some sort of expansion here as there is also a need for storage in this building. He suggested that they try to see how they would expand and get a potential cost that would be involved to do so. He said that they could ask Mr. Schuch who is an architect to review it for them and provide a preliminary cost to do the review and on the potential cost.

Mr. Whritner asked if they could ask Mr. Minuitti to see if he has any plans on this building as he has already studied this for the vision committee.

Mr. Formica agreed that was a good idea. He noted that they would have public and community forums on anything before going forward.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Formica for coming and for the insight on what is going on throughout the Town.

Ms. Wilson said that she really did not have any idea on what something of this nature would cost and that she would be willing to consult with Mr. Schuch.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. Palazzo moved to authorize Ms. Wilson to obtain a plan review quote from Mr. Schuch on the potential expansion of the main dining area to allow for more space for the Senior Center.

Ms. Bengtson seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

b. Budget for FY 14/15

Ms. Wilson said that so far her budget is intact but the process is not yet done.

(Note: 6:13 PM – Mr. Whritner excused himself and left the meeting.)

c. Update on Energy Assistance Program

Ms. Wilson reported that she has processed 175 applications so far this year and that it has been a long year.

d. Municipal Grant for Medical Transportation

Ms. Wilson said that they had just completed this – there are nine (9) Towns involved and other Towns can come in at mid-year if they want to. It is doing well. For June of this year they can only reimburse mileage if people arrange for someone to drive them as that is all that they can afford. Also – as of July 1, 2014 they will be limiting the rides to 12 round trip rides per person – this equates to one round trip ride per month. They will still have the mileage reimbursement if there is a caregiver doing the driving.

e. Other Pertinent Business

There was none.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Celebrate 90+ Tea

Ms. Wilson said that this would be held on May 16, 2014 at 1 PM and that the invitations are going out this week.

b. Policies for Transportation

Ms. Wilson noted that they had a copy of the current details of the Senior Center's transportation system and potential revisions.

(Note: Mr. Mountain left the meeting at 6:20 PM)

After a lengthy discussion on the current transportation system and possible revisions the following items were targeted as being the most important:

- Who is eligible to use the transportation?
- What is the driver's responsibility regarding packages?
- What is the passengers responsibility regarding packages?

- Should the Senior Center limit the number of packages a passenger can bring on the vehicle?
- Should the Senior Center put a weight limit into place?

It was agreed that further discussion will be held at the June meeting of the Commission. The members were asked to review the documents provided regarding transportation issues. The Commissioners also asked Ms. Wilson to invite the Senior Center drivers to attend the next meeting to see what they currently do and to get their thoughts on this. Once the policy is revised and adopted, the transportation schedule will be reviewed.

c. Funding for Programs

Ms. Wilson informed the Commissioners that more requests are being made to fund programs out of the Revolving Account. At this time, many programs do not break even so the Revolving Account would operate at a loss if the programs were moved to it. It was noted that it may be time to look at fundraising to offset the programs that do not break even. Some suggestions were given as to what may be viable and profitable.

d. Incident Report

Ms. Wilson reviewed the Incident Report that had been provided to the Commissioners.

e. Other Pertinent Business

There was none.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no public discussion.

6. ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION (5)**

Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of April 14, 2014 at 6:45 PM.

Ms. Bengtson seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary, Pro-tem