

Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2015

Present: Philip Mountain
Joe Palazzo
B. B. Smith
Ilene Harris
Marge Caste
John Whritner

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Sept 17 2015 AT 3:30 AM PM
Cathy Wilson, Senior Services Coordinator
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Joan Bengtson

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Senior Services Coordinator
Rose Ann Hardy, ex officio

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Acting Chairman Palazzo called the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of September 14, 2015 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 - July 13, 2015. Mr. Palazzo asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2015.

MOTION: Ilene Harris moved to approve the July 13, 2015 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by B. B. Smith. John Whritner abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

d. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.

Chairman Mountain arrived.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation.

Ms. Wilson reported the vehicles will go in for quarterly reviews.

She informed the Commission that Tuesdays and Friday in the afternoon are very busy. She stated we are getting more requests to go to Old Saybrook and Lyme

and Old Lyme for medical appointments. Today two people were on the waiting list to go to New London. Last Friday we needed two drivers. This Friday we will need an additional driver. She is considering increasing her full time driver's hours to 37.5.

Ms. Harris asked if we do not have sufficient funds for our drivers at the end of June, can we request a special appropriation? Ms. Wilson replied at the present time our part time driver can go to 19.5 hours. Twice per month he reaches 19.5 hours. She felt there is sufficient funds in the budget to go to the end of June. She has two on call drivers who have been available to fill in.

Ms. Hardy asked what are the appointments to Old Saybrook, Lyme and Old Lyme for? Ms. Wilson replied there is a Yale satellite building they go to for medical appointments.

On Tuesdays we may need to use the van. Obtaining the passenger endorsement for licenses has become a much more arduous process. Physicals are a lot more thorough. There are specific physicians you need to go to.

Ms. Hardy stated for CDL licenses you need to attend 35 hours of classes. The cost has also increased. If you transport them in your own vehicle and are doing Town business, your own insurance covers first.

Ms. Wilson reported the vehicles are running fine and the drivers are doing well.

b. Senior Trips.

(1) Enrichment Trips. The following enrichment trips are planned: October 7 to the East Lyme High School Culinary Program for lunch. The cost is \$5; October 14 lunch at the Steak Loft and a trip to B. F. Clyde's Cider Mill. The trip fee is \$3; October 28 to Langley's Restaurant, with shopping afterwards. The trip fee is \$3.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips. The following Day/Overnight trips have been planned: October 7 for a guided driving tour of covered bridges in Southern New Hampshire, with lunch included at the East Hill Farm. The trip fee is \$90pp; October 28 to Haunted Happenings in Salem, MA for a self guided tour of the Salem Witch Museum with time to enjoy the many festivities. Lunch is not included. The trip fee is \$59pp; November 8 to the 9/11 Museum, with lunch on your own in Little Italy. The trip fee is \$73pp; November 12 join the Lyme Senior Center for a trip to Mohegan Sun. The trip fee is \$20pp; and December 2 for a trip to Radio City Music Hall for their Christmas Spectacular. Lunch is included for a fee of \$145pp. On December 2 a second bus has been reserved for Radio City Music Hall and their Christmas Spectacular. Lunch is included for a trip fee of \$156pp.

October 12-14 to Joseph at the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre in Lancaster, PA for a two night stay at the Crown Plaza Hotel at a cost of \$475pp double;

\$450pp triple, and \$550pp single; and January 28-February 7, 2016 for a fully escorted 11 day-7 shore excursions Hawaiian Cruise included in the price starting at \$4,449pp.

The following three additional cruises are planned: an Alaskan Cruise on June 6-19, 2016, aboard the Holland American "Zaandam" starting at \$4,434 per person with port and government taxes included; August 27-September 13, 2016 for a Trans-Atlantic Cruise for 18 days with flight and motor coach included aboard the Royal Caribbean "Serenade of the Seas" starting at \$3136 pp.; October 30-November 11, 2016 for an escorted Caribbean Cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean "Serenade of the Seas": Fly out of Boston and return from Fort Lauderdale for 12 nights starting at \$2,027 with port and government taxes included.

There will be a trip presentation for the June 2016, August 2016 and October 2016 cruises on October 22 at 2 p.m. at the East Lyme Senior Center.

c. Programs.

(1) Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson reported we still do not have a Site Server. There has been an increase at the congregate site. Ms. Hardy asked what is the daily attendance? Ms. Wilson replied 9-11 daily.

(2) Senior Center Programs-Ongoing. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission all ongoing programs are doing well.

(3) Senior Center Programs – New. Ms. Wilson reported a Flu Clinic will be held on October 16 from 1-5 p.m. She was asked if they offer the special flu vaccine for seniors? Ms. Wilson replied the VNA does not. It also does not offer the pneumonia vaccine.

An East Lyme resident is turning 100 years old in October. Ms. Wilson is planning a party for her on October 9.

The Glenn Hansen Big Band will perform at the Senior Center on October 23 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Lions Club will have a dinner on October 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Eight individuals are attending the drawing class. The Hiking Program is doing well. The Ukulele Class has a large group. We will have a guitar demonstration to determine if there is enough interest in a Guitar Class.

d. Budget - General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson will give a report on the budget in October.

e. Revenues - General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson reported we brought in \$6,000 in August and by this date we have already brought in another

\$6,000. Ms. Hardy asked if these amounts are expense free? Ms. Wilson replied they are not.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Will Bequest - Ideas. Ms. Wilson reported from the will bequest we have added approximately \$80,000 to the Parahus Account. To date, \$50,000 has been received with the additional \$20,000 to \$30,000 due sometime this Fall. She asked Commission members for their ideas on what an expenditure from this bequest they feel will improve the Senior Center offerings. B. B. Smith suggested physical expansion of the Senior Center. Ms. Wilson felt the schools will need to be taken care of first. John Whritner reported there will be a reduction of a school. Niantic and Flanders schools will continue with additions. The idea is to free up Lillie B. Haynes for the Town's use.

b. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Wilson stated we discussed a veteran's discount for activities at the Senior Center. She asked the Commission to consider how much of a discount should be given to veterans? Ms. Hardy suggested obtaining a list of veterans at the Town Hall. She recommended announcing the discount on Veteran's Day. It was felt there should be clear guidelines. Further discussions will be held in October.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Positions at the Senior Center. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission that thirteen applications were received for the Program Coordinator position and seven individuals were interviewed. Ms. Wilson reported Kristen Caramanica was selected and will begin working on October 1. John Whritner felt there were many capable individuals that applied.

Ms. Wilson received a fax from Frank Buechsel asking under FOI how we interviewed the Program Coordinator. Town Attorney has been informed of the fax and sent information on how this request should be handled.

b. Senior Center Regional Blog. Ms. Wilson reported we will have a Regional Senior Center Blog soft launch in October. The Blog will go live in November.

c. Rec Trac Upgrade to Web Trac - on line registration. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission with this software individuals can register on line, and we are now able to take credit card payments. However, we have individuals who do not have or use the computer. She suggests holding some reservations aside for those individuals who do not use the computer.

d. Other Pertinent Business. The Commission on Aging will meet next month on October 13, because of the Columbus Day holiday.

The Senior Center is changing from propane to natural gas, and there will be a few days when the stove will be converted from propane to natural gas.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no public discussion.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Joe Palazzo moved to adjourn the September 14, 2015 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Ilene Harris. (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary