

**EAST LYME COMMISSION ON AGING
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd, 2016**

Present: Joe Palazzo, Chairman, Marge Caste, Ilene Harris, B.B. Smith,
John Whritner

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Senior Services Coordinator
Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-Officio - Board of Selectmen

Absent: Joan Bengtson

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Chairman Palazzo called the Commission on Aging Special Meeting of February 22, 2016 to order at 5:00 PM.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was observed.

b. Delegations

Mr. Palazzo called for delegations.

There were no delegations.

c. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2016

Mr. Palazzo noted that they had not received a copy of the minutes for review.

The Commissioners decided to table any action on them until the March meeting of the Commission.

d. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Ms. Wilson asked that they add two items under New Business – Incident Report and Phil Mountain Resolution.

****MOTION (1)**

Ms. Harris moved to add two items under New Business – Incident Report and Phil Mountain Resolution.

Ms. Caste seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation

Ms. Wilson reported that with the Dial-A-Ride program that they had asked for a \$24 enrollment fee this year and that the number of people who enrolled was dramatically reduced. This enabled them to clean up their records as many of these people were not utilizing it but were holding spots that others would have liked. Also – the people who are looking for mileage reimbursement and the money allotted for that is not going as far as it once was so they are moving from 12 round trips (or 24 single trips) to 18 round trips (or 36 single trips) and they will write the new grant for the local transportation in that way. She said that she had explained the ridership numbers to the Board of Selectmen at her budget presentation as they have gone up. In FY11-12 they had 261 riders per month; FY15/16 it went to 279 per month and so far this year to date it has been at 317 per month. She is working on the 5310 grant for vehicle replacement (Summer 2017) and they are looking to keep the two buses that they have now and

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Cathy Wilson, Clerk
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give up the van to another area within the Town that can use it. Lastly, the quarterly work on the vehicles is coming due.

b. Senior Trips

(1) Enrichment Trips – Ms. Wilson reported on the following trips for March:

On Wednesday March 9 they will take a trip to Latitude 41 & Shipyard Tavern in Mystic. The Trip fee is \$3.

On Wednesday March 23 they will take a luncheon trip to Go Fish in Olde Mystic Village. Trip fee is \$3.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips – Ms. Wilson reported on the following upcoming day trips:

April 7, 2016 – Mohegan Sun with the Lymes Senior Center (pick-up in EL) - Trip fee \$20.

April 17, 2016 – 9/11 Museum – Lunch on your own in Little Italy – Trip fee is \$75. Wait List Only. Lots of Walking.

April 30, 2016 – New York City on you own – leaves EL at 7:45AM and NYC at 7:30 PM. Trip fee is \$48. Registration has begun. Lunch on your own. Lots of walking.

May 11, 2016 – Westchester Broadway Theater – Happy Days – Lunch included. Trip fee is \$97. Registration has begun. Minimal Walking.

May 21, 2016 – Guided tour of Brighton Beach, “Little Russia” and free time at Coney Island. Lunch included. Trip fee is \$97. Registration has begun. Minimal walking.

June 7, 2016 – Boston Museum of Science – price includes admission to the IMAX Theater Show. Lunch on your own. Trip fee is \$63. Registration has begun. Moderate walking.

June 24, 2016 – Newport Flower Show at Rosecliff Mansion – ‘Gilded Age’, Lunch on your own in the Wharf area. Trip fee is \$44. Registration begins March 1st. Moderate Walking.

Upcoming overnight trips:

June 6-19, 2016 – Alaska Land & Cruise – 6 nights Land tour & 7 night Cruise aboard the Holland American ‘Zaandam.’ Starting at \$4434pp. Registration has begun.

August 27 – September 13, 2016 – Trans-Atlantic Cruise w/flight and motor coach included on the Royal Caribbean’s ‘Serenade of the Seas.’ 18 days, starting at \$3136pp. Registration has begun.

NEW TRIP - October 9-11 2016 – ‘Samson’ at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theater in Lancaster, PA. 2 night stay at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel. \$467pp double. \$429pp triple. \$557pp single. Registration has begun.

October 30-November 11, 2016 – Escorted Caribbean Cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean ‘Serenade of the Seas.’ Fly out of Boston and return from Fort Lauderdale. 12 nights, starting at \$2027pp with port and government taxes included. Registration has begun.

c. Programs

(1) Senior Nutrition Program – Ms. Wilson reported that they still do not have a site server and that TVCCA is continuing to interview for one. It is the volunteers that they have that keep this program going. There is a new TVCCA Director as Mr. Grills resigned. She also reported that she has two new MOW’s drivers and the volunteer status is doing very well.

- (2) **Senior Center Programs - Ongoing** – Ms. Wilson reported that Kristen’s programs are doing very well (Bunco, adult coloring, Health & Wellness series) and are free or with little cost.
- (3) **Senior Center Programs - New** – Ms. Wilson reported that they will be starting a new billiards series as the Youth Center has a billiards table that was recently re-felted. They will see how it goes. They are also starting a brain aerobics class, learn Italian by watching videos (trial class) and crocheting with plastic bags class.

d. Budget – General Fund, Revolving Account

Ms. Wilson reported that the Parahus account (money willed or donated to the Senior Center) has \$11,374.08 in it at this time. There is a line item of \$1,199.18 within that which was from a craft group that has been gone for many years and another line item of \$1,050.00 that they have been tracking for Parks & Rec of money given for them. She said that she would like to incorporate the craft group money into the overall Parahus account and transfer the \$1050.00 that belongs to Parks & Rec out to them as it is their money. This would clean up this account.

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. Whritner moved to transfer the \$1050.00 in the Parahus account that belongs to Parks & Rec to the Parks & Rec account line item 18-08-800-802.

Ms. Harris seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (3)**

Ms. Harris moved that they no longer delineate the \$1,199.18 as a separate line item within the Parahus account and just absorb it into the overall account.

Ms. Caste seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Palazzo mentioned the need for a new stove in the kitchen. He said that he thought that it would potentially cost in the \$12,000 to \$15,000 range if there were no donation from the Lions.

Ms. Harris suggested utilizing money from the Parahus account for this purpose.

Ms. Wilson said that she did not want to do that because multiple people utilize the kitchen and the stove and do not necessarily all take care of it as they would. It is a community item in some ways.

Ms. Hardy asked what the problem is with the current stove.

Mr. Palazzo said that it was propane and was then changed to natural gas and it does not work as well or heat up to the temperatures as it should.

Ms. Wilson added that the conversion is one issue and that another issue is that it is some 20+ year old. She said that she would like the Town to at least pay for some of it.

Ms. Hardy suggested that she come back now to the Board of Selectmen with an offer on what the Parahus would give and the Lions and what she is looking for from the Town.

Ms. Wilson continued that her Part time driving account has 19.5 hours for the driver and another 5 hours to augment the TVCCA site server (currently there is no one in that position) and that as of last week her PT driver account was at 69% expended which makes this line item extremely tight. She said that her union payroll line item is running a bit lower as they did not replace her retiree until October so she would like to do a transfer of \$1750.00 from the union payroll to the PT driver line item to help make it through the end of the year.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. Whritner moved that \$1750.00 from the union payroll line item be transferred to the PT driver line item to help complete the year.

Ms. Harris seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Wilson also explained that she is in trouble with her program instructor account line item and that she expects that she will run about \$5000 short in this account. She recalled that they had spoken about taking money from the Parahus account to cover this and said that she would like them to do that.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. Whritner moved that they take up to \$5000 from the Parahus account to cover the program instructor line item for the rest of this fiscal year.

Ms. Caste seconded the motion.

Ms. Harris asked what they plan on doing to stop this from happening in the future.

Ms. Wilson said that she will move some of the performing programs out to the Special Revenue account and potentially charge more for the others until she can move them out also. They are also planning on coming up with fundraising. For example – the Drama group has a sponsor that helps with them specifically. Also, Kristen is good with creating programs that do not cost a lot.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Wilson said that she is moving producing programs into the Special Revenue account and hoping to get all of them into it eventually.

e. Revenues – General Fund, Revolving Account

Ms. Wilson reported that this is doing okay.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Budget Review for FY 16/17

Ms. Wilson reported that she presented her budget to the Board of Selectmen and that the process is still in progress.

b. Fundraising Ideas

Ms. Wilson reported that the Glenn Hansen Orchestra will be playing here on Friday April 8, 2016 and that this is a fundraising event for the Senior Center. If you like to dance or to just come with friends and listen, it is a great event featuring Big Band era music.

c. Parahus Account – Putting a Portion into Interest bearing CDs

Ms Wilson recalled that they had started discussion on putting some of the Parahus account money into longer term accounts. Ms. Johnson suggested taking a good chunk of the money from \$75,000 to \$100,000 and putting it into higher interest bearing CDs.

Ms. Caste noted that she has seen a special at People's for a one year CD and that it might be worth looking into.

Ms. Wilson said that she likes to hold onto more of the money and perhaps invest for a shorter period of time.

Mr. Whritner reasoned that the longer term would net more and that he thinks that it would be wise for them to put as much as possible say the \$75,000 for the longest term – say the one year. Further it would leave them more than enough for a stove and the \$5000 transfer and other things they might need that could come from that account.

Ms. Wilson said that she would speak with Ms. Johnson about this and on the rates.

d. Other Pertinent Business

Ms. Hardy reported that the gas station downtown across from the Morton House is closed now and the people who were there are now moving to Pennsylvania Ave. The property is back up for negotiation with the Town.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Potential Expansion of the Newsletter

Ms. Wilson said that there is not enough space in the current newsletter for everything she would like to list so she re-worked it and asked the publisher about adding another two pages. They said that they would need advertising as selling ad space is what pays for this newsletter. She said that she receives 700 copies of the newsletter and is thinking of possibly looking into other alternatives such as doing it themselves and selling some ad space.

Ms. Hardy noted to Ms. Wilson that she had recently asked the Board of Selectmen for extra help for other things and suggested that she is already involved in too much to try to take over something that is already working. She further said that she has been involved with fundraising and it is not something that Ms. Wilson would want to have to do for the newsletter when she does not have to do it now.

b. TVCCA March for Meals

Ms. Wilson said that March is the month for the Mayors and other Town officials to come out and go with the MOW's drivers to deliver meals to the public. This is open to any Board of Selectmen member or Commissioners who would like to do it for the one day.

c. Charles B. Allyn Foundation Grant

Ms. Wilson said that one issue with the dial-a-ride program is that people need to get to Yale or Hartford Hospital and the cost of livery to transport them is very expensive so Groton, Waterford & East Lyme wrote a joint grant for \$3000 to be able to use those funds for this purpose.

d. Vacancy on Board

Ms. Wilson noted that there is one vacancy to fill on this Commission.

Ms. Hardy said that there are three people who are interested and that she hoped to be able to get one for appointment in the near future.

e. Incident Report

Ms. Wilson said that this involved a driver who slipped on ice in a person's driveway. They suffered some black and blue from the fall.

f. Phil Mountain Resolution

Ms. Wilson said that she would like to send a letter of commendation to Mr. Mountain for his years of service to them and the Town.

****MOTION (6)**

Mr. Whritner moved to send a letter of commendation to Mr. Mountain for his many years of service to the Commission and the Town.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

g. Other Pertinent Business

There was none.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no public discussion.

6. ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION (7)**

Mr. Whritner moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging Special Meeting of February 22, 2016 at 6:03 PM.

Ms. Caste seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary, Pro-tem