

Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2016

Present: Joe Palazzo  
Joan Bengtson  
Ilene Harris  
Marge Caste  
B. B. Smith  
John Whritner

FILED

Sept 14 20 16 AT 10:10 (AM/PM)  
Ilene Harris ATC  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: John E. Donnelly, III

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Senior Center Director  
Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Chairman Palazzo called the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of September 12, 2016 to order at 5:00 p.m.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.
- b. Delegations. There were no guests.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes - July 11, 2016. Mr. Palazzo asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the July 11, 2016 Commission on Aging Minutes.

MOTION: Ilene Harris moved to approve the July 11, 2016 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Marge Caste. B. B. Smith and John Whritner abstained from voting. (4-0-2)  
Motion carried.

- d. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported all three vehicles have been inspected and registered. The R-3 has been back in operation since mid-August. Transportation has been very busy.

She informed the Commission her full time driver will have surgery on Thursday and will be unable to drive for at least eight weeks. John Hallissey has agreed to cover driving except for his two weeks vacation the last week of September and the first week of October. She has hired an additional driver, but he will need a

background check which will take from six to eight weeks. The background check request was submitted to DMV on August 19th along with all other required documentation for this person to obtain the Passenger Endorsement. This driver currently has a CDL with two additional endorsements. She has met with the drivers to go over the schedule. We will be able to provide transportation but there will likely be days when it is run on a limited schedule. Michael Palumbo has an endorsement but is not available until October. Gail Glenn has agreed to help, but she is only able to drive the van. Mr. Palazzo asked Ms. Wilson to determine if anyone is available to drive from Waterford. Ms. Hardy suggested asking if a school bus driver may be available.

b. Senior Trips.

(1) Enrichment Trips. The following enrichment trips are planned: October 12 a lunch trip to The Steak Loft in Mystic. Afterwards to Clydes' Cider Mill for some awesome apple cider. The trip fee is \$3; October 26 for a lunch trip to On the Rocks @ Fox Hopyard in Haddam. Afterwards for some leaf peeping in the area.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips. The following Day trips have been planned; the October 1 trip to Boston has been cancelled due to low registration ; October 13 for the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular at the Roger Williams Zoo in Providence, RI. The trip fee is \$46 pp; November 3 for a trip to Mohegan Sun those attending will receive a casino package for a trip fee of \$20; November 15 to Newport Playhouse & Cabaret in Newport, RI to see "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" for a trip fee of \$76pp; December 8 for Stocking Stuffer Holly Days in Central, MA. Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Hebert's Candy Mansion and Oakwood Farm Christmas Barn and lunch included at the Old Mill in Westminster. Everyone gets a Christmas stocking and a gift in the stocking. The trip fee is \$89.

The following Overnight trips have been planned: October 9-11, 2016 to "Samson" at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theater in Lancaster, PA for a two night stay at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel. Free time at Longwoods Garden and Philadelphia included. \$467pp double; \$429 pp triple and \$557pp single; December 2-4, 2016 for a trip to Niagara Falls Festival of Lights Tour in Niagara Falls, Canada. 3 days and 2 nights. \$495 pp double, \$465 triple and \$625 single. February 7-17, 2017 for a No Fly Caribbean Cruise leaving out of New York City, 11 days, 10 nights on the Norwegian Gem. Trip fees range from \$1259 to \$1809 (taxes included); May 28-June 5, 2017 Steamboatin' on the Mississippi River aboard the American Queen paddleboat for 9 days and 8 nights. The trip fees from \$3,068 to \$5,468 (taxes included); October 1-11, 2017 for a fall foliage cruise in New England, Canada and Newfoundland with Royal Caribbean for 11 days and 10 nights. The trip fees are from \$1,530 to \$2,620 (taxes included); October 24-November 8, 2017 for an escorted Panama Canal Cruise on Celebrity's Infinity for 16 days and 15 nights. The trip fees are from \$3,315 to \$3,825 (taxes included).

c. Programs.

(1) Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson reported in August there was a waiting list for Meals-on-Wheels. She contacted the Department on Aging, Senior Resources and TVCCA and was informed it has to do with funding. TVCCA has had lay offs. There have been problems with delivery of meals, and we are getting busier in the dining room.

(2) Senior Center Programs-Ongoing. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission that we have had benefits checkups at the Senior Center. It was defunded. She will have to take over those duties.

(3) Senior Center Programs – New. Ms. Wilson reported one of her yoga instructors retired. She now has a replacements.

d. Budget - General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson reported last fiscal year we had \$48,948.82 in the Special Revenue Fund and \$33,360.30 in the Town Fund.

e. Revenues - General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson reported our revenues are doing very well.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Expenditures from the Parahus Account. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission we paid for a half rack of chairs (expense was shared with the Parks and Recreation Department) and purchased the pig roaster. We had a 75 pound pig and served 72 people. The event went very well.

b. Person-Centered Counseling Training Program. Ms. Wilson has withdrawn from the person-centered counseling training program, because she does not have the time to participate and the Senior Center does not have a social worker. Ms. Caste asked why don't we have a social worker? Ms. Hardy replied we had one for several years. The state no longer funded it.

c. Other Pertinent Business. There was no discussion of other pertinent business.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Final Accounting of Jakubiel Estate. Ms. Wilson reported the Jakubiel Estate has given a total of \$84,901.50 to the Senior Center.

b. Expenditure from Parahus Account for Rack of Chairs.

MOTION: John Whritner moved to approve the expenditure of \$899 from the Parahus Account for a Rack of

Chairs. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (6-0) Unanimous

c. Expenditure from Parahus Account for RecTrac Software Maintenance. Ms. Wilson reported when she budgeted for the registration software she budgeted \$1500. The cost is \$5500 for RecTrac software maintenance. She has paid \$700, however, Senior Center's share is \$1,848.89. We will need to withdraw \$1200 from the Parahus Account to pay the balance of Senior Center's share because the Center's Operating Budget does not have it.

MOTION: John Whritner moved to withdraw an amount not to exceed \$1200 from the Parahus Account for Senior Center's balance for RecTrac Software maintenance. Seconded by Ilene Harris. (6-0) Unanimous.

d. Expenditure from Parahus Account for Open Door Program. Ms. Wilson reported the Open Door Program is for residents who have signs of dementia. Waterford has started this is a program which will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Waterford has asked that we contribute \$1,000 or \$2,000 towards this program, because it will be open to East Lyme residents. Ms. Wilson felt it will need to be a case by case basis for transportation. Ms. Harris asked if there will be a fee. Ms. Wilson replied there will not be a fee, but there will be a request for donations.

Ms. Harris asked how many people have signed up so far? Ms. Caste replied they want twenty and are now taking applications. The program will begin on October 13. Ms. Bengston asked if this matter could be tabled until October 13 and to determine if there is interest. Ms. Caste felt we should contribute.

MOTION: John Whritner moved to transfer \$1,000 to indicate a willingness for East Lyme to participate in the Open Door Program. Seconded by B. B. Smith. Ms. Bengston abstained from voting. (5-0-1) Motion carried.

e. Expansion of Office Space. Ms. Wilson reported with increased activity at the Senior Center the amount of foot traffic at in the front office has increased. She is considering moving Kristin to the Conference Room and Anna to Kristin's area. This gives us space to have a volunteer take care of telephone calls. This change will need to be funded.

f. Other Pertinent Business. Mr. Palazzo asked if the Senior Center still plans to have a digital board and TV? Ms. Wilson replied it will.

Ms. Caste reported the Senior Club has disbanded. Due to dwindling numbers of members it was felt the club could not longer function. The small amount of money

left will be disbursed to the Senior Center, Library, Care and Share and the Salvation Army.

**5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

There was no public for discussion.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Ms. Smith moved to adjourn the September 12, 2016 Commission on Aging Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Seconded Ms. Harris. (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary