

Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2017

Present: Joe Palazzo
John Whritner
Mike Bekech
BB Smith
Marge Caste
Ilene Harris
Joan Bengtson

FILED

June 14 2017 AT 10:35 AM/PM
Jillie ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

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 May 8, 2017 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 - May 8, 2017. Mr. Palazzo asked for additions, corrections or deletions to the May 8, 2017 Commission on Aging Minutes.

MOTION (1): Mr. Whritner moved to accept the May 8, 2017 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bekech. Ms. Bengtson abstained from voting. (6-0-1)
Motion carried.

- d. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.

MOTION (2): Ms. Harris moved to add Lions Club Lobsterfest to this evening's Agenda under New Business item c. Seconded by Ms. Bengtson. (7-0) Unanimous.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported all vehicles are running well. All drivers are doing well. She expects the new vehicle in September.

She informed the Commission when the parking lot was redone, they carved out an area for the Commission on Aging vehicles.

b. Senior Trips.

(1) Enrichment Trips. The following enrichment trips are planned: July 12 to the Gelston House in East Haddam, CT for a trip fee of \$5pp.; July 26 to the Morning Glory Cafe in Old Saybrook, CT for a trip fee of \$5 pp.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips. The following day trips are planned: On July 11 to New Bedford, MA for a guided walking tour of the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and in the p.m. for a guided tour of the New Bedford Whaling Museum. On July 27 to the Gilded Age of the Berkshires including a tour of Ventford Hall and Naumkeag with lunch at the Mount for a trip fee of \$107 On July 29 to the Bronx Zoo (all ages welcome) for a trip fee of \$70. On August 8 for a tour of Pindar Winery on Long Island and on August 24 to see "The Producers" at Theater by the Sea. On September 9 to the New York Botanical Gardens to see the Chihuly Exhibition at night, with dinner on your own for a trip fee of \$70 pp.; September 20 to the Big E in Springfield, MA for a trip fee of \$45. Lunch is not included.

The following overnight trips are planned: On September 8-10 for three days and two nights includes Potomac River Cruise, Museum of African American History and more \$523/double, \$693/single, \$473 triple. On October 1-11, 2017 for a Fall Foliage Cruise in New England, Canada and Newfoundland with Royal Caribbean for 11 days and 10 nights. Trip fees from \$1520 to \$2620 with taxes included. October 2-4 to see "Jonah" at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania; November 4-15 for an escorted tour of Croatia, Slovenia and the Adriatic Coast. The trip fees are from \$3,369 to \$3,899. Travel insurance is not included. January 28-February 9, 2018 Southern Caribbean Cruise on Royal Caribbean Anthem of the Seas for 13 days and 12 nights. No Fly - Get on board at NJ Pier. The trip fees are from \$1799 to \$2,019.

Mr. Palazzo reported he was approach by some senior that they would like the policy the same for all seniors for trips. Ms. Wilson stated she has seniors who have no transportation of their own and she is saving five spots for them. Ms. Smith asked how long are these five spots reserved? Ms. Wilson replied one day. There was a general consensus of the Commission that five spots be available for one day for those senior who have no transportation of their own.

c. Programs.

(1) Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson reported there has been an increase in participants in the Meals-on-Wheels program and a decrease in participants using the lunch program.

(2) Senior Center Programs-Ongoing. Ongoing programs are doing well.

(3) Senior Center Programs – New. Kristen Caramanica found videos on Youtube that showed Connecticut Parks which was enjoyed by several seniors.

- d. Budget - General Fund, Revolving Account. The budget is doing well.
- e. Revenues - General Fund, Revolving Account. Revenues are doing well.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Budget Process for FY 17/18. Ms. Wilson reported our budget has been finalized. It has been cut by \$2,000.
- b. Replacement of ELCC Kitchen Appliances. Ms. Wilson is seeking all new quotes.
- c. Other Pertinent Business. There was no other pertinent old business.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Potential Changes in Pricing Strategy for Senior Center Programs. Ms. Wilson reported session classes are easier than pass classes. With pass classes we don't know how many people will come. We may need to have a waiting list. Ms. Harris asked how do other senior centers handle this? Ms. Wilson replied they only have session classes. Ms. Smith asked how many classes are they allowed for \$60? Ms. Wilson replied 30 classes for the entire year. She added if someone were to purchase a session they are more likely to attend classes. Ms. Harris felt the cost is reasonable.

Ms. Wilson informed the Commission at the present time we allow those individuals 55 and over to come to the Senior Center. Our transportation is available for individuals 60 or older or disabled. If an individual is under 60, they can attend a Parks and Recreation program. She also suggested that we consider a sur-charge for non-residents on big trips.

b. Incident Review. The Commission reviewed an incident report.

c. Lions Club Lobsterfest. Ms. Wilson reported she spoke to the President of the Lions Club who informed her they wish to use two Senior Center vehicles and two drivers for the Lobsterfest. They agree to pay all costs associated with this request.

Mr. Bekech asked if we have any liability for this request? Ms. Wilson replied it is covered under the Town's insurance.

MOTION (3): **Ms. Smith moved to allow the Lions Club to use two Senior Center vehicles and two drivers for the Lobsterfest. The Lions Club agree to pay all costs associated with this request. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (7-0) Unanimous.**

d. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission of the Swearing-In Ceremony for the newly formed independent East Lyme Police Department tonight at 6 p.m. in the East Lyme High School Auditorium.

Ms. Hardy suggested that everyone see the new Band Shell.

She added the downtown property the Town acquired will be demolished within the next few weeks. DEEP will test the soil. The area will then become grassy. Parking spaces will be available on either side. A Committee will come up with a plan for its future use.

Ms. Wilson informed the Commission she plans to be on vacation the last two weeks in June.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no further discussion from the public.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (4): **Mr. Whritner moved to adjourn the June 12, 2017
Commission on Aging Regular Meeting at 5:50 p.m.
Seconded by Ms. Bengston. (7-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary