

Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2017

Present: John Whritner
Mike Bekech
BB Smith
Marge Caste

Absent: Joe Palazzo
Joan Bengtson
Ilene Harris

FILED

March 15 2017 AT 1:35 AM/PM
Clara N. Palm, Jr.
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

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

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Acting Chairman Whritner called the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of March 13, 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 - February 13, 2017. Mr. Whritner asked for additions, corrections or deletions to the February 13, 2017 Commission on Aging Minutes.

The following correction was noted: There are no periods in BB Smith's name.

MOTION: Ms. Caste moved to accept the February 13, 2017 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended. Seconded by BB Smith. Mr. Whritner abstained from voting. (3-0-1)
Motion carried.

- d. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported her full time driver has been able to come in every day. All vehicles are doing well. It was necessary to transfer funds from our full time driver account to our part-time driver account. The Senior Center will be closed tomorrow because of the anticipated storm.

Connecticut DOT must go out to bid for a vendor to build the vehicles and that usually has happened by now. The 5310 grant for vehicle replacement seems to be running later than what has occurred in the past. Ms. Wilson thinks the actual delivery date of the new

vehicle will likely be in the Fall. To date Ms. Wilson has not received any information on the Dial-a-Ride Municipal Grant. The application process is being streamlined.

Ms. Wilson received information on UBER. In order to use UBER an app is needed on your phone. It has four levels of vehicles based on the type of vehicle you would need. The price is based on the level of car you are requesting. She checked on the cost for UBER transportation from East Lyme to Lawrence and Memorial for a one-way trip and found the cost ranges from \$15-\$60 depending on the type of vehicle that is needed. Ms. Hardy felt Curtin Livery costs less. Ms. Caste asked if there would be a lift for a wheelchair? Ms. Wilson replied that UBER does not have vehicles with wheelchair lifts but Curtin Livery does.

b. Senior Trips.

(1) Enrichment Trips. The following enrichment trips are planned: A lunch trip on April 12 to the New Taza Grill Middle Eastern Grill in Niantic for a trip fee of \$3; and April 26 for a lunch trip to Flomena's in Waterford, CT for a trip fee of \$3.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips. The following day trips are planned: April 6 to the Mohegan Sun Casino for a casino package. The trip fee is \$20 pp. payable to the Lyme Senior Center. No meal is included. April 12 to see "Mamma Mia" at the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford, NY with lunch included for a trip fee of \$97 pp. April 29 to New York City on your own for a trip fee of \$48 pp. No meal is included in the trip price. May 9 to One World Observatory at One World Trade Center with lunch on your own at Brookfield Place for a trip fee of \$88. May 25 for a trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts for a guided tour of the Matisse Exhibit. The trip fee is \$68. On June 19 a trip to Boston Harbor for the return of the Tall Ships. Lunch is included for a trip fee of \$119. On June 23 to the Newport Flower Show at Rosecliff Mansion in Newport with lunch and shopping on your own for a trip fee of \$46.

The following overnight trips are planned: On May 28 - June 5, 2017 Steamboatin' on the Mississippi River aboard the American Queen paddleboat for 9 days and 8 nights. The trip fees are from \$3,068 to \$5,468 with taxes included. On June 29-30, 2017 to Ogunquit and Portland, ME for one night and two days with a guided tour of Portland, Lighthouse Cruise of Casco Bay included. \$309/double, \$379/single, \$299 triple. 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 24 through November 8, 2017 for an escorted Panama Canal Cruise on Celebrity's Infinity. This trip is full. 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.

c. Programs.

(1) Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson stated she has had discussion with surrounding towns regarding the Senior Nutrition Program. Most are using town employees except for New London. We have used volunteers when available since we do not have a Site Server.

Ms. Caste asked if you use a town employee does it come out of the Commission on Aging budget? Ms. Wilson replied it does. On Monday we knew a storm was coming, and we sent out extra food. There will be no delivery on Tuesday and possibly Wednesday.

(2) Senior Center Programs-Ongoing. Ms. Wilson reported ongoing programs are doing well.

(3) Senior Center Programs – New. Ms. Wilson reported on the following new programs: a Clay Class has been started and enjoyed; an oil painting on material class and volunteers for Rikki and Reflexology.

On April 29 we will have a Senior Prom sponsored by East Lyme High School students. The students will have a Walk-a-thon to raise funds to pay for the DJ and decorations. There will be no admission fee for seniors.

d. Budget - General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission all budget line items are as anticipated. The Program Supplies line item is getting low.

e. Revenues - General Fund, Revolving Account. Revenues are doing well.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Budget Process for FY 17/18. Ms. Wilson thanked Mr. Whritner, Ms. Smith and Ms. Bengston who met with the First Selectman and presented to the Selectmen. Two thousand dollars was restored to the budget. Ms. Wilson will attend a Board of Finance Budget Hearing on March 30 at 6:30 p.m.

She received an email that was sent to all department heads which in part stated that until we know what is happening on the state level, department heads will have to consider major cuts. She felt overtime will need to be cut. Ms. Smith asked what type of overtime is needed? Ms. Wilson replied overtime is usually for drivers. If overtime is needed for employees of the Senior Center, compensation time will be given instead of overtime.

b. Expenditures from the Parahus Account. There were no new expenditures from the Parahus Account.

c. Service Animals vs. Therapy Animals. Commission members reviewed information on Service Dogs and the Law. Ms. Wilson would like to determine whether or not a Therapy Animal can come to the Senior Center on a case by case basis. She felt the animal would have to be under control of its owner and urinate outside of the Senior Center. Ms. Smith felt any therapy animal should have its rabies shot. Mr. Whritner felt a town-wide policy is

needed. Mr. Whritner asked Ms. Wilson to draft a policy for the Commission to review at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

d. Replacement of ELCC Kitchen Appliances. Ms. Wilson reported she has received two quotes for kitchen appliances and is waiting for a third. She had discussions with the Rotary Club and they have agreed to help pay for them. Her quotes to date range from \$7500-\$8,000. Mr. Bekech suggested asking Dominion to consider a donation towards the appliances.

e. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Wilson stated she has written a letter in support of the Open Doors Program. Ms. Caste informed her everyone is pleased with this program.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. www.seniorcenter.org 2016 Annual Report. Ms. Wilson reported our regional website is doing o.k. We are running a promotion by hiding a coupon on the site to promote the website. She asked Commission members to think of ways to help promote this website.

b. Smoking on the ELCC Grounds. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission there is no designated area for smoking on the Community Center grounds. She would like individuals who smoke to be 25' from the Community Center. Ashtrays have been provided. Ms. Wilson agreed to draft a policy on smoking on the Community Center grounds for review by this Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

c. New Expenditures from the Parahus Account. Ms. Wilson reported she needs a new telephone and hook up at her new desk. She estimates the cost of a new phone and hook up to cost \$850. Ms. Caste felt since the Community Center is a town building, the Town should pay for it.

MOTION: Mr. Bekech moved to authorize the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$850 for a new telephone and hook up. Seconded by BB Smith. (4-0) Unanimous.

d. Info on Silver Sneakers. Ms. Wilson stated she was asked by Ms. Harris to obtain information on Silver Sneakers. Ms. Wilson informed Silver Sneakers if they would like to partner with the Senior Center. We would need a certified Silver Sneaker instructor. They will get back to her.

e. Info on Souper Bowl Fundraiser. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission the Groton Senior Center held a Souper Bowl Fundraiser. There were 175 people in attendance and it raised \$3,000. A restaurant donated soup and bowls were made. Mr. Bekech suggested BYOB (bring your own bowl). There was a general consensus that this was worthwhile considering having it in October. Ms. Hardy stated the High School does this every other year. This is a year they will not be doing it.

f. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Caste suggested placing information in the Courier regarding lunch trips to avoid any confusion. Ms. Wilson stated most of the people who go on bus trips do not have transportation. We decided to save five spots for those individuals. They need to let the Senior Center know they wish to go and pay within two days. Ms. Hardy suggested having registration begin at lunch time. Ms. Caste suggested that the policy be noted in the Courier.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no further discussion from the public.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Caste moved to adjourn the March 13, 2017
Commission on Aging Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Seconded by Ms. Smith. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

