

Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2017

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

FILED

*May 11* 20*17* AT *12:45* AM/PM  
*Julia ATC*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Joan Bengtson

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Senior Center Director

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. Shirley Lan was present.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes - April 10, 2017. Mr. Palazzo asked for additions, corrections or deletions to the April 10, 2017 Commission on Aging Minutes.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Smith moved to accept the April 10, 2017 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Caste. Ms. Harris abstained from voting. Mr. Bekech was not present at this time. (4-0-1) Motion carried.**

- d. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.

2. STATUS REPORT

- a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported all vehicles are running well. All drivers are ok.

Ms. Wilson reported our order for a 12 passenger new vehicle has been placed. She stated when we submitted the 5310 grant we requested \$60,000-\$62,000. After meeting with the garage and drivers specifications the cost was \$1535 more.

Mr. Bekech arrived.

**MOTION (2): Ms. Harris moved to approve the expenditure**

**of \$1535 to be taken from the Parahus Account  
to be able to add to the 5310 grant for a new  
vehicle. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (6-0)**

She plans to have the Dial-a-Ride paperwork submitted by the end of the week. We hope to increase the rides to 22 round trips. There are twelve towns participating in Dial-a-Ride.

The Town has eliminated the islands in the Community Center parking lot. Each parking space needs to be striped. They have designated areas for our vehicles to park. Mr. Whritner asked if there will be the same handicap spots? Ms. Wilson replied they will.

b. Senior Trips.

(1) Enrichment Trips. The following enrichment trips are planned: June 14 for lunch to the Marina at American Warf in Norwich, CT and June 28 for lunch at the Back Porch in Old Saybrook, CT. Each are for a trip fee of \$3.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips. The following day trips are planned: 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. 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.

The following overnight trips are planned: 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 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 has been approached by four individuals who feel the \$3 fee for trips should be increased to \$5 to help defray the cost of gas and lunch for the driver

and staff member. Ms. Harris agreed to increasing it to \$5. Ms. Wilson added that the staff and driver are limited to \$15 for lunch. Many of East Lyme residents do not have a way to go out to lunch. She suggested reducing the number of trips. Ms. Smith asked if Senior Services is also picking up the residents going on the trip? She was informed they are picked up if they have no way to get to the Community Center.

**MOTION (3): Mr. Whritner moved that as of July 1 the fee for Day trips now costing \$3 be increased to \$5. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (6-0) Unanimous.**

c. Programs.

(1) Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson met with the Director of the Senior Nutrition Program to request a stipend for the work of our staff. She was informed they have no funding. Ms. Wilson plans to write up a proposal to request \$50 per week for a secretarial position, because Senior Service spends five hours per day on this program. They are also looking at registration software to reduce the paperwork. She added other parts of the state give restaurant gift certificates. Ms. Harris felt those without transportation cannot participate. Ms. Harris asked if other senior centers have a similar problem? Ms. Wilson replied most senior centers have a Town employee who runs the program along with the Senior Center's own meal program. We would need to hire someone for that purpose. Ms. Caste asked if Meals-on-Wheels will also be cut? Ms. Wilson replied that it is targeted. We ended the Bistro Program in April. Our Cafe' meals are now Monday through Friday. It will have a suggested donation of \$3.

(2) Senior Center Programs-Ongoing. Ms. Wilson reported the 90+ Tea will be held on Friday May 19 at 1 p.m. Crescent Point and Bridebrook will be involved. Main Street Grille will provide soup.

On June 9 and 10 the Drama group will perform in Neal Simon's Fools. If you purchase a ticket in advance you will receive 20% off at Flanders Fish for dinner on the same date.

(3) Senior Center Programs – New. On June 12, 19 and 26 we will have access to Youtube. The Senior Learning Program will be on Yellowstone Park. On June 2 and July 2 we will have a program on winemaking. On June 28 Gladview will have a cooking solo program on better breathing.

d. Budget - General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson reported her instructor line item will need a transfer. She has had discussions with the Finance Director about the Special Revolving Account.

e. Revenues - General Fund, Revolving Account. The Commission reviewed information on revenues. Ms. Wilson stated we have tracked what is deposited on a monthly basis.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Budget Process for FY 17/18. Ms. Wilson reported the Town Meeting on the budget is tonight at 7 p.m. at the High School. The Board of Finance will present its budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 to the Town. Comments may be made on its budget. The Referendum vote will be held on May 18. The Town has no information from the state.

b. Replacement of ELCC Kitchen Appliances. Ms. Wilson reported she has received a quote from a plumber for natural gas to the new stove of \$4,000. If we get the same stove we now have the plumbing bill will be \$800. Mr. Palazzo stated we have had a couple of different companies check the stove. There is a 3/4" gas line going into the stove. The stove is deteriorating. Ms. Caste felt this cost is for maintenance of a town building.

Mr. Palazzo stated the ovens were working until they converted. Ms. Wilson asked if we had a new stove piped correctly will it work? Mr. Palazzo felt we need a convection oven and a regular oven. Mr. Whritner stated we had a plan for a new stove, but it needs to be natural gas. Ms. Harris added the Lions are willing to give us \$3,000 towards a new stove. Right now it is not efficient and since this building is owned by the Town, it needs to be taken care of as soon as possible. Ms. Smith asked is there another option that could accommodate the less expensive stove? Mr. Palazzo felt we have funds in the Parahus Account. Ms. Smith felt donations will not be made to the Senior Center if it is not used for seniors. Ms. Harris felt this expenditure will benefit the entire town. Mr. Palazzo felt if an individual rented the Senior Center for an event, the stove could be used. Mr. Whritner felt this is an immediate need.

**MOTION (4): Mr. Whritner moved that the Commission on Aging approve the expenditure of \$4,000 from the Parahus Account for the exclusive use of the plumbing to complete the improvement of the kitchen for the entire Senior Center. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (6-0) Unanimous.**

Ms. Wilson agreed to obtain additional quotes from plumbers.

e. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Wilson gave copies of the policy for the Parahus Account approved in 2011 for their review. There was a general consensus not to make any changes to it.

### 5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no further discussion from the public.

### 6. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION (5):**        **Mr. Whritner moved to adjourn the April 10, 2017  
Commission on Aging Regular Meeting at 6:05 p.m.  
Seconded by Ms. Caste. (5-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary