

Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2017

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

Absent: BB Smith  
Mike Bekech

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NOV 16 2017 AT 3:55 AM (PM)  
*[Signature]*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Senior Center Director  
Nancy Mikkelson  
Anita Potts  
Kate Steele

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Chairman Palazzo called the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of November 13, 2017 to order at 5:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

b. Delegations. Nancy Mikkelson stated she wished to thank this Commission for the opportunity to have the Open Doors Program. There are four individuals from East Lyme in it. It helps people with dementia and it defuses frustration for the caregiver. There are currently 15 individuals in the program. They are challenged as much as they can be. I understand it is a pilot program that is government funded. They ask for a small donation for supplies and snacks. The participants bring or buy lunch. Out of the fifteen currently in this program, I know there are at least four families in East Lyme. The Waterford participants receive a ride to and from the program. She feels she will not be able to transport her husband for more than two years. She asked that the Commission consider that there may be a need in the future for additional services.

c. Approval of Meeting Minutes - October 10, 2017. Mr. Palazzo asked for additions, corrections or deletions to the October 10, 2017 Commission on Aging Minutes.

The following correction was noted: On page 3, under item d. the first sentence to be revised as follows: "Ms. Caste noted that they had discussed a hand held microphone to be used for events as it is hard for some people to hear."

**MOTION (1): Mr. Whritner moved to accept the October 10, 2017 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (5-0) Unanimous.**

d. Correspondence. Ms. Harris suggested looking into grants from CCCI or the Alzheimer's Association.

## 2. STATUS REPORT

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

Ms. Wilson reported the new vehicle is in. It has been plated and registered. Now that we have three vehicles, the van is at Public Works and will be auctioned. The R-3 has had problems with the air conditioning. Now that the new vehicle is on the road, R-3 can go to the garage for its repairs.

### b. Senior Trips.

(1) Enrichment Trips. Ms. Wilson reported we have only planned one trip on December 13 to the East Lyme High School for a cost of \$5.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips. The following day trips are planned: Thu, Nov 16th - Trip to the Newport Playhouse & Cabaret in Newport, RI to see "*The Crazy Time*" with lunch included. Trip fee is \$76pp. Tue, Dec 5th - Holiday experience with Christmas in Newport in Newport, RI. Two decorated mansions, lunch at the Atlantic Resort included. Trip fee is \$97pp.

The following overnight trips are planned: **February 1-4, 2018** - Join us for the famous **Quebec Winter Carnival** and tour this beautiful city with a knowledgeable local guide. \$955/double, \$1249/single, \$889/triple..

**October 15-25, 2018** - Escorted tour of the **Imperial Cities featuring Prague, Vienna & Budapest**. Once in a life time trip. \$3649/double, \$4299/single, \$3619/triple. (travel insurance not included).

### c. Programs.

(1) Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson reported she has received notice of a change in funding. One source for TVCCA comes from CCCI. The Board of Directors decided not to participate in it. Not enough money is provided for the meals delivered. Mr. Palazzo asked do we know that every person who comes in for lunch pays? Ms. Wilson replied it is only a suggested donation because of federal funding.

Ms. Wilson stated we are considering coming out of the Cafe Program held on Mondays. The Center is planning soup and sandwich once a month. This will be discussed further in December.

(2) Senior Center Programs-Ongoing. Ongoing programs are doing fine. Ms. Wilson has spoken to the instructors about the current budget situation.

(3) Senior Center Programs – New. We have established a team meeting and two individuals attended today. Ms. Wilson would like to have more representation.

They asked when was the last time the carpet was cleaned. They wish to have the Senior Center painted. Ms. Wilson asked will the painting come out of the Commission on Aging budget? She felt the Town should pay for it. They felt with our bigger trips we should have more than one volunteer. Ms. Caste suggested one from Waterford and one from East Lyme. Ms. Wilson did not feel it was necessary to have two volunteers on every trip. When going on the lunch trips, they did not want to purchase lunch for the staff and driver. Ms. Caste agreed the seniors should not pay for them because they are working. On the big trips they felt it needs to be clear on how much assistance we will supply. We decided to meet every other month and engage them in ideas on programming.

d. Budget - General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson felt our budget is doing well.

e. Revenues - General Fund, Revolving Account. The Commission reviewed information on revenues.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Registration Issues with Enrichment Trips. Ms. Wilson felt individuals should call in to register for an enrichment trip. Staff felt all was going well. When asked at the Team Meeting they asked how long will we continue this. Ms. Wilson informed them for a few months. Ms. Caste felt there are not as many in the winter. Ms. Wilson agreed in November and December we don't have as many.

b. Potential 5% Reduction in the Current Operating Budget. Ms. Wilson felt after the passage of the state budget, the pressure is lessened on the Town budget. On November 14 she plans to attend a department head meeting.

c. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Wilson will check on the cost of a hand held microphone.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resignation of Anna Hartung. The Commission reviewed Anna Hartung's letter of resignation. Ms. Wilson invited Commission members to a farewell reception on November 21 at 12:30 p.m. for Anna Hartung.

The position will be posted internally and an ad will be in the newspaper.

b. Changes in Senior Benefits due to the new State Budget. Ms. Wilson reported the renters rebate checks from the state to date have not gone out. The state budget states the towns will have to pay for it. No town has budgeted for it.

The Medicare Saving Program in Connecticut depends on income. You may get assistance from the state with your monthly premium for prescription drug coverage. Part B is withdrawn from an individual's social security check. Depending on your income level you could potentially have the State of Connecticut supplement your health insurance.

The Department of Aging will merge with the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services.

No information has been received on Energy Assistance.

c. 2018 Schedule of COA Meetings. The Commission reviewed the 2018 schedule of meeting dates.

**MOTION (2):**           **Ms. Bengston moved to adopt the 2018 schedule of meeting dates, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (5-0) Unanimous.**

d. Discussion of Agenda Make-Up. The Commission reviewed information on Public Participation at Meetings.

e. Review of Incident Reports. The Commission reviewed an incident report.

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

#### 5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no public discussion.

#### 6. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION (3):**           **Mr. Whritner moved to adjourn the November 13, 2017 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting at 5:45 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (5-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary