

Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2017

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

FILED

Sept 13 2017 AT 10:30 AM/PM  
Karen Galbo ATZ  
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 September 11, 2017 to order at 5:00 p.m.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.
- b. Delegations. There were no delegations.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes - July 17, 2017. Mr. Palazzo asked for additions, corrections or deletions to the July 17, 2017 Commission on Aging Minutes.

**MOTION (1):** Mr. Whritner moved to accept the July 17, 2017 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Harris. Mr. Bekech abstained from voting. (5-0-1)  
**Motion carried.**

- d. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported all vehicles are running well. Vehicles are being scheduled for their quarterly maintenance now. All drivers are doing well.

- b. Senior Trips.

(1) Enrichment Trips. The following enrichment trips are planned: Wednesday, Oct 11th - Leaf Peeping trip in the Colchester area with lunch at the Toro Asian Bistro. Trip fee is \$5pp. Wednesday, Oct 25th - lunch trip to Frank's Gourmet Grille in Mystic and then a visit to Clyde's Cider Mill. Trip fee is \$5pp.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips. The following day trips are planned: Tue, October 10th - Fall foliage trip to Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield, MA. Trip fee is \$85pp includes lunch. Fri, October 20th - East Lyme, Waterford and Lymes' are sharing a bus with the Madison Senior Center to visit the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. Lunch on your own at Eataly. Trip fee is \$81pp. Tue, Oct 24th - Let's go to JFK Presidential Library & Museum for its Centennial Celebration in Boston. Lunch on your own at Quincy Market. Trip fee \$66pp. Thu, November 9th - Trip to the Mohegan Sun Casino. Checks made out to the *Lymes' Senior Center*. No meal included. Trip fee is \$20pp. Thursday, November 16th - Trip to the Newport Playhouse & Cabaret in Newport, RI to see "*The Crazy Time*" with lunch included. Trip fee is \$76pp. Tue, December 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: 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. February 1-4, 2018 - Quebec Winter Carnival and tour. \$955/double, \$1249/single, \$889/triple. October 15-25, 2018 - Escorted tour of the Imperial Cities featuring Prague, Vienna & Budapest. \$3649/double, \$4299/single, \$3619/triple. (travel insurance not included).

c. Programs.

(1) Senior Nutrition Program. No changes.

(2) Senior Center Programs-Ongoing. No changes have been made until we know the status of the state's budget.

(3) Senior Center Programs – New. Create Holiday Cards for Soldiers Over Seas - Utopia Home Care to play Family Feud – Ted Talks with Kristen – Live Well Workshop for 6 weeks – Eastern CT Transportation Consortium Discussion on DialaRide – Respiratory Winter Wellness with Gladeview Rehab and Health Care Center – Flu Clinic by VNASC – Niantic Toastmasters & Advanced Toastmasters – Annual Lions' Club Supper – Drumming for Health – Fall Harvest Celebration

d. Budget - General Fund, Revolving Account. No issues with Expenses at this time.

e. Revenues - General Fund, Revolving Account. No issues with Revenues at this time.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Replacement of ELCC Kitchen Appliances. Ms. Wilson reported two quotes were received for the plumbing work. One from DJ McCarthy and one from Tuneski. The Board suggested contacting McCarthy Plumbing to perform the work.

**MOTION (2):            Mr. Whritner moved to award the plumbing work  
for the East Lyme Community Center kitchen  
renovations in the amount of \$650 to DJ McCarthy.  
Seconded by Ms. Harris. (7-0) Unanimous**

b. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Wilson updated the Commission on the No Smoking policy for the ELCC. This is being worked on currently by the Board of Selectmen and will be voted on at their September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Senior Center Bus and Update of Title VI Policies. Ms. Wilson reported Title VI is a requirement for any agency that receives federal funds. You cannot discriminate, and you need to make sure they have a way to get information about services provided. You can call AT&T and request an interpreter. Each bus will have language cards so it can be identified what language is spoken. Ms. Wilson is reviewing a letter to the Town, because we need to have a second person in the Town to sign off. She plans to have this ready by next month.

**MOTION (3):            Ms. Bengston moved to authorize  
Ms. Wilson to assure that Title VI  
policies are adhered to.  
Seconded by Mr. Bekech. (7-0)  
Unanimous.**

b. Registration Issues with Enrichment Trips. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission she has included in their packet what the Senior Center has been doing for the last three months regarding registration. It now begins on the first business day of each month at noon. The later registration time is so that people who ride the bus can get into the Senior Center and register. Individuals are now arriving before 11:30 a.m. and are in line before the bus arrives.

Consideration is being given to have a lottery.

We can allow individuals to register for one trip and be on a wait list for a second trip.

We discussed offering the same trip twice a month, but there are not enough people for it.

Ms. Smith suggested as they walk through the door have them draw a number. It gives everybody in the building time to register.

Ms. Harris suggested first come, first serve. Ms. Smith felt this would not work, because some individuals have to rely on transportation.

Mr. Palazzo suggested using the smaller van. Ms. Wilson stated then you would have two drivers, plus a staff member.

Ms. Harris felt calling in to make a registration is not a good idea. Ms. Smith felt this was too cumbersome. Ms. Wilson felt we could ask them to call at 8:30 a.m. to register themselves and one other person. We would need to get the money within two business days. We might be able to have a credit card system at some point.

Ms. Caste suggested signing up for one and then being on a waiting list for another.

Ms. Hardy felt phone calls would be time consuming for the staff. She felt people would understand the lottery. Ms. Caste asked if you use the lottery system how does your name get put in for the second trip. Ms. Smith felt this could be for only those individuals who come to the Senior Center. Ms. Wilson felt we could inform them you can only sign yourself up. If a friend wants to also go they may not be on the same trip.

Ms. Harris suggested contacting other senior centers to see how they handle this.

**MOTION (4): Ms. Smith moved to table this discussion until the next meeting of this Commission. Seconded by Ms. Bengston. (7-0) Unanimous.**

**MOTION (5): Ms. Harris moved to have Ms. Wilson contact other senior centers to determine how they handle trips. Seconded by Ms. Bengston. (7-0) Unanimous.**

d. Report of Theft at the Senior Center. Ms. Wilson reported two Fridays ago we had bingo. The following week she was informed money was stolen. The individual whose money was stolen did not wish to report it to the police. The Senior Center looked at the security camera and found it does not go into the Senior Center.

e. Installation of Camera at the Senior Center. Ms. Wilson spoke with Emergency Management regarding a camera for the Senior Center, and they felt it could be installed at the Senior Center. Ms. Wilson has contacted Mr. Bragaw regarding a privacy issue, but to date has not received a call back.

**MOTION (6): Ms. Harris moved to install a camera at**

**the Senior Center. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (7-0) Unanimous.**

f. Credit Card Payments at the Senior Center. Ms. Wilson reported we would like to be able to take credit card payments at the Senior Center. Parks and Recreation have a hard wire one and a portable one to process payments. We plan to borrow one and all payments will be processed by Parks and Recreation. This would be helpful for trips done by telephone. Mr. Bekech asked if a fee will be charged for using it? Ms. Wilson felt a fee could be charged. Ms. Smith asked if at some point the Senior Center will take over the processing of payments. Ms. Wilson felt they would.

g. Other Pertinent Business. Commission members reviewed the incident report. Ms. Smith asked if individuals sign a waiver before using the bus? Ms. Wilson replied they do.

**5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Sue Wilbur asked whether or not there is a wheelchair lift on the smaller bus? Ms. Wilson replied there is. Ms. Wilbur asked if there is a step? Ms. Wilson replied it does not have a step.

Mary Jane Harraka asked if a bus driver can leave the bus to help someone. Ms. Wilson replied a bus driver is allowed to light assist any passenger. Mary Jane Harraka stated many senior centers for insurance reasons cannot do that. She asked is the Town covered for this service? Ms. Wilson replied it is.

Sue Wilbur asked about the cost of plumbing from \$650-\$950 and both are recommended. She wondered why the large difference is price. Ms. Harris replied we asked if they were comparable and found there is no difference.

Sue Wilbur felt the Senior Center should require individuals who sign up to take vigorous programs should sign a paper that if they are injured they need to use their own insurance. If it was because of negligence it would be different.

Winnie Worley felt if a bingo caller is needed, she is willing to volunteer.

Sue Wilbur felt the Senior Center should have circular tables to make it more inviting. She also suggested viewing other senior centers. Seniors were asked to be quiet when certain activities are held at the senior center. She felt the Day Room should be more comfortable and that more room is needed.

Ms. Caste stated she has been coming to the Senior Center for some time and was never asked to be quiet. Ms. Wilbur stated there has been a note on the door requesting people to be quiet.

Ms. Bengston asked if those present were all residents of East Lyme and did something prompt this discussion? Ms. Wilbur replied Mr. Palazzo asked us to give our thoughts to this Commission.

Mr. Whritner stated he has used the Senior Center and feels qualified to be on this Commission.

Ms. Harris stated she has worked with this age group.

Mr. Palazzo stated he has volunteered in the Senior Center kitchen for ten years.

Winnie Worley asked don't you want seniors to come to the Senior Center? She was informed they do.

Ms. Harris felt seniors should speak to Ms. Wilson first, and if more information is needed bring the discussion to this Commission.

Sue Wilbur asked what is the purpose of this Board? Ms. Harris replied to oversee what the Senior Center does. We make decisions on spending issues.

Ms. Harris felt Ms. Wilson runs the Senior Center, and she is your first line of action, and if an issue cannot be resolved you should come to this Commission.

Ms. Hardy felt these discussions should come outside of Commission meetings.

Sue Wilbur felt seniors should feel free to voice their opinions.

Winnie Worley felt maybe Ms. Wilson should set a time when seniors are able to discuss their concerns. It was felt Ms. Wilson is doing her job. Ms. Harris suggested calling to make an appointment to speak to Ms. Wilson.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION (7): Mr. Whritner moved to adjourn the September 11, 2017 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Smith. (7-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary