

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 8, 2019**

Present: John Whritner
Marge Caste
BB Smith
Mike Bekech (late)
Joan Bengtson
Ilene Harris

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
July 11, 2019 AT 12:51 AM/PM
Brooke Horowitz
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Joe Palazzo

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Senior Center Director
Rich Steel

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

- a. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.
- b. **Delegations.** There were no guests.
- c. **Minutes of May 13, 2019.** Acting Chairman Whritner asked for additions, corrections or deletions to the May 13, 2018 Commission on Aging Minutes.

The following corrections were noted: On page 1 the Block Island trip will be held on July 17 and there will be a trip to Providence on July 9. The meeting date was May 13, 2019 and item c the date was April 8, 2019.

MOTION (1): BB Smith moved to approve the May 13, 2019, Commission on Aging Minutes, as amended.
Seconded by Marge Caste. Ilene Harris abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

2. STATUS REPORT

- a. **Transportation.** Ms. Wilson reported all vehicles are going through their quarterly maintenance. Registration for R1 will need to be renewed by August 31st. While it goes through its quarterly maintenance, the Town Garage will be notified that it will be heading to Crest Ford afterwards for its DOT required inspection..
- b. **Senior Trips.**
 1. Enrichment Trips. **Wed, Aug 14th** - Join us for lunch at **Breakwater restaurant** in Stonington. Shopping afterwards. Departure from the Senior Center at 11am. Return around 3:30pm. Trip fee is \$5pp.
Wed, Aug 21st - Join us for an 11am cruise of the **Thimble Islands** located in Branford. Lunch will be afterwards at the U.S.S. Chowder Pot. Departure from the Senior Center at 9:30am. Return time around 4pm. Trip fee is \$18pp.

2. Day/Overnight Trips. **Sun, Aug 4th** - Come enjoy a summer night at **Yankee Stadium** for a game between the *Yankees & Red Sox*. Trip fee is \$147pp. Limited seats. Includes a hotdog, and a beer, soda or water. Registration has begun. Moderate walking.

Thu, Aug 22nd - Join us on a delightful ferry ride to **Long Island** where we will enjoy a 30 minute guided of Raphael Winery and sample 3 of their wines and have a bit of cheese. Lunch & time on your own in Greenport. Trip fee is \$103pp. Registration has begun. Lots of walking. WAIT LIST ONLY

Wed, Sep 4th - Enjoy an afternoon at **Theater by the Sea** for their production of "*Saturday Night Fever*". Lunch on your own in the lovely seaside town of Galilee, RI. Trip fee is \$70pp. Moderate walking. Registration has begun.

Tue, Sep 24th - Let's head to **Webster Lake** in Webster, MA and enjoy a lovely riverboat cruise. Lunch is included and will be at the Waterfront Dining Room. Menu choice is needed upon registration. After lunch, enjoy free time to shop at Foppema's Farm - a 75 acre fruit and vegetable farm located in Northbridge. Trip is \$89pp. Registration has begun. Moderate walking. WAIT LIST ONLY.

Tue, Oct 1st - Join us for a narrated tour of a **Cranberry Bog** at A.D. Makepeace Co - the world's largest cranberry grower. Lunch is included at Lindsey' Family Restaurant and menu choice is needed upon registration. Stop at Dorothy Cox Chocolates Factory before heading home. Trip fee is \$92pp. Moderate walking. Registration has begun.

Tue, Oct 15th - **Polka at the Aqua Turf** featuring the The Polka Family Band. Bring your dancing shoes or just come for the fun music. Lunch included. Trip fee is \$73pp. Minimal walking. Registration has begun.

Sept 8-15, 2019 - Cruising Maine and Atlantic Canada on NCL's Escape. 8 days, 7 nights. Transportation to pier included. Prices start at \$1559pp double occupancy. Registration has begun.

Sep 15-22, 2019 - Guided tour of **America's Cowboy Country** to explore the West. 8 days, 7 nights. Transportation & transfers included. Prices start \$3599pp double occupancy. Registration has begun.

Oct 29-Nov 9, 2019 - Guided tour of **Southern Italy & Sicily**. 12 days, 11 nights. Transportation & transfers included. Prices start \$3799pp double occupancy. Registration has begun.

Dec 29 to Jan 2, 2020 - Pasadena CA and the Tournament of Roses Parade. 5 days, 4 nights. Transportation & transfers Included. Optional 3 night tour extension to Las Vegas. Prices start \$2579 double occupancy. Registration has begun.

Feb 6-9, 2020 - Quebec Winter Carnival with a travel guide. 4 days, 3 nights. Old Quebec City, Winter Carnival and Carnival's Night Parade. Prices start \$930pp double occupancy. Register has begun.

Mar 2-8, 2020 - Iceland's Magical Northern Lights and tour of the country. Enjoy the natural beauty of Iceland. Transportation & transfers included. Prices start at \$3699pp double occupancy. Registration has begun.

Please note the trip scheduled to Philadelphia was cancelled due to low registration.

c. Programs.

1. Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson reported because of the July 4 holiday; the Agency also had Friday off. As a result, we needed to send out Monday through Sunday meals in three days and the bulk delivery of milk, fruit and bread. Ms. Wilson sent a letter to TVCCA to

inform them it was too much work for the Senior Center. They emailed her to inform her they have a staff meeting this week and will discuss the matter at that time.

2. Senior Center Programs – Ongoing. There was nothing new to report.

3. Senior Center Programs – New. Ms. Wilson stated we offered a six weeks session on Tools for Caregivers. Ms. Harris reported Waterford Senior Center has a Caregivers Support group once a month on the second Thursday of the month. Mr. Whritner asked how many individuals were in attendance? Ms. Wilson replied 4-7. Ms. Caste discussed an Open-Door free program and recommended advertising it our program in the Courier.

d. Budget – General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson reported she made some transfers and is working on final figures. However, the department came through under budget.

e. Revenues – General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission revenue were slightly lower and still working on the final figures.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Rebranding of the Senior Center. Ms. Wilson reported she attended the Annual Conference of the Senior Center Council. They are a subset of the National Institute of Senior Centers. They are moving away from the name of senior centers and using the title of Aging Well Centers.

b. New Newsletter Design and Contract. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission they are revamping the newsletter.

c. Department Use of Credit Cards. Ms. Wilson stated we have been paying fees when an individual uses their credit card. Equipment rental is expensive. She has spoken to the Finance Director and suggested that the Town have a decision on having a fee for credit card use.

d. Removal of Organ. Ms. Wilson reported she has had four calls about the organ but no one has come to see it. She would like to advertise it through the senior and school system. BB Smith suggested Facebook Marketplace.

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

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Celebrate East Lyme. Ms. Wilson reported she and Kristen Caramanica will have a booth during Celebrate East Lyme. They will have flyers for trips, copies of the Courier available. They will also have artwork for sale.

b. Annual Arts & Crafts Fair. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission two senior citizens vehicles and two drivers were used by the Lions Club for the Arts & Crafts Fair. She will bill them for its cost.

c. Need for New Date for the November 2019 Meeting. Ms. Wilson plans to be on vacation in November. There was a general consensus to change the Commission on Aging Meeting date to November 4.

d. Evening Event in October 2019. Ms. Wilson reported we normally have a regional event in the fall. This year it will be held at New London Country Club on October 17 from 7-10 p.m. at a cost of \$20.

e. FY2020 – Program Fees. The Finance Director would like all programs from the General Fund to go into the Special Revenue Fund. Ms. Wilson stated we may discontinue the pass system.

f. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Caste asked what is the status of the computer. Ms. Wilson stated we need to decide what type of hardware is needed. Ms. Caste felt some individuals may not be comfortable using the computer.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Steel stated he recently retired and he and his wife have been using the Senior Center facilities and have been very happy with Ms. Wilson and the activities at the Senior Center.

6. BOARD RESPONSE

No guests were present.

7. AJOURNMENT

MOTION (2): Mr. Whritner moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of July 8, 2019 at 5:35 pm. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary