

COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2012

**Present:** John Whritner, Acting Chairman  
Marge Caste  
BB Smith  
Ilene Harris  
Mike Bekech

FILED

Jan 22 2020 AT 12:15 AM/PM

*Karen Yalch*

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**Absent:** Joe Palazzo  
Joan Bengtson

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

**1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

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

**b. Delegations.** There were no guests.

**c. Minutes of December 9, 2019.** Acting Chairman Whritner asked for additions, corrections or deletions to the December 9, 2019 Commission on Aging Minutes.

**MOTION (1):** Ms. Caste moved to approve the December 9, 2019, Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented.  
Seconded by Ms. Harris. (5-0) Unanimous.

**d. Correspondence.** The Commission reviewed letter dated December 13, 2019 from Pat Rovero regarding senior rides for medical appointments.

**e. Election of Officers.** Election of officers is postponed until the next meeting of this Commission. Ms. Wilson agreed to provide a list of Commission members noting when their term expires.

**2. STATUS REPORT**

**a. Transportation.** Ms. Wilson reported the quarterly report will be sent to DOT this week. Vehicles are running well and drivers are doing well.

Ms. Harris asked if we received a grant for a new vehicle? Ms. Wilson replied we did, and we are in the 18- month timeline between awarding of the grant and receipt of the vehicle.

**b. Senior Trips. Enrichment Trips.** The following trips have been planned: To the Hideaway Restaurant, to Grasso Tech, day trips to New York City, Mohegan Sun and to the Bristol, Rhode Island mansions.

**2. Day/Overnight Trips.** On February 6-9, 2020 to the Quebec Winter Carnival and Night Parade with a travel guide for 4 days and 3 nights. The cost is \$889 per person for double occupancy, \$779 per person for triple occupancy, and \$1209 for single occupancy. On March 2-8, 2020 to Iceland's Magical Northern Lights and tour of the country. Transportation and transfers included. Prices begin at \$3,699 per person for double occupancy. May 7-8, 2020 to the Chinese Lantern Festival in Philadelphia. The trip includes the Chinese Lantern Festival, a tour of the Eastern State Penitentiary and a local food tour. The cost is \$299 per person for double or triple occupancy and \$379 per person for single occupancy. August 21-29, 2020 for a nine-day trip to the Colorado Rockies to visit four national parks, as well as 11 meals, transportation and transfers. The cost is \$3,499 per person for double occupancy, \$4499 for single occupancy and \$3499 for triple occupancy. October 3-12, 2020 for a 10-day Shades of Ireland. The trip includes 13 meals, a visit to Dublin, Blarney Castle, Kilkenny, Waterford, Ring of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher and more. Transportation and transfers included. The cost is \$3,649 per person for double occupancy, \$4,249 per person for single occupancy or \$3,619 per person for triple occupancy. October 7-9, 2020 "Queen Esther" at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The trip includes a stop at the Appalachian Brewing Company on day 1 and the Mount Hope Estate & Winery on day 3. The cost is \$565 for double occupancy, \$715 for single occupancy and \$515 for triple occupancy.

**c. Programs.**

**1. Senior Nutrition Program.** Ms. Wilson met with the Assistant Director and Regional Site Manager of TVCCA and discussed how few are coming to the Senior Nutrition Program. They felt Ms. Wilson may cut back if she feels it is necessary. They suggested having a breakfast. Ms. Wilson informed them she has programs before and after lunch. The suggested donation in East Lyme is \$2. Her volunteers have been asked for a list of ingredients because of allergies.

TVCCA has stated they will train volunteers. There was discussion on bulk delivery of milk, fruits, bread and butter. Meals-on-Wheels are doing ok.

Ms. Hardy asked how many clients are served? Ms. Wilson replied in the dining room Tuesday through Wednesday four or five. Thursdays 6-8 and Fridays 6-10. Ms. Hardy asked are the numbers low because they are going somewhere in the winter months? Ms. Wilson replied the numbers are consistent. Frail individuals are coming in and need transportation to come in.

Ms. Hardy asked how many clients receive Meals-on-Wheels? Ms. Wilson informed her between 25-30.

**2. Senior Center Programs – Ongoing.** Ongoing programs are doing well.

**3. Senior Center Programs – New.** Ms. Wilson met with the Commission of a new Caregivers' Group and Support Group. She is considering an RPN to discuss Medical Marijuana.

Ms. Wilson reported instead of having a drama production this spring they will have a screen and acting class.

d. **Budget – General Fund, Revolving Account.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission the budget is doing fine.

e. **Revenues – General Fund, Revolving Account.** Ms. Wilson stated revenues are doing fine.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

a. **Rebranding of the Senior Center.** Ms. Wilson had nothing new to report on rebranding of the Senior Center.

b. **Newsletter Design and Contract.** Ms. Wilson had nothing new to report on this matter.

c. **Department Use of Credit Cards.** The Commission reviewed information on the charge for accepting credit cards for payment. She would like the Town to deal with one vendor or decide not to accept credit cards. We cannot charge an additional fee if an individual wants to use a credit card.

d. **Program Coordinator Position.** Ms. Wilson reported to date no one has been hired for the Program Coordinator position.

e. **Budget Request FY20/21.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission last year the Board of Finance asked to move Program Costs to the Special Revenue Account and remove Program Instructors out of the General Fund. The First Selectman suggested \$8,000 to be used as a cushion. BB Smith asked what is the benefit of it? Ms. Wilson replied her General Fund is reduced. We have the option of fundraising. People donate to the Senior Center. Mr. Bekech asked what happens if the program generates more funds? Ms. Wilson replied it would give support to other programs.

**MOTION (2):** Mr. Bekech moved to approve the General Fund budget request in the amount of \$258,247. Seconded by BB Smith. (5-0) Unanimous.

**MOTION (3):** BB Smith moved to approve the Special Revenue Fund budget request in the amount of \$103,981. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (5-0) Unanimous.

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

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Volunteer Transportation Program.** Ms. Wilson stated the Department needs to revamp the Volunteer Transportation Program. We have no idea about the condition of their cars. She will try to get information from nadtc. Ms. Harris felt their insurance may increase. Ms. Wilson was asked if we have considered mileage reimbursement for a driver to drive their own car? Ms. Hardy asked if volunteer drivers get a briefing? Ms. Hardy added Meals-on-Wheels drivers do not carry passengers. Ms. Harris asked if UBER drivers have been considered? BB Smith suggested using Dial-a-Ride. Ms. Harris asked if the UBER driver would take responsibility to get the passenger inside? Ms. Wilson agreed to explore this matter more. She felt in East Lyme we have more senior housing and our elderly population is larger.

**b. Art Sale Proceeds—Share with East Lyme Library.** Ms. Wilson reported the daughter of a painter who had health issues donated some of his art to the Senior Center and Library. The Senior Center through the sale received \$1,087.75. Ms. Hardy suggested an evening event displaying local artists' work. Mr. Whritner suggested hanging it on the Senior Center walls and pricing them. Ms. Hardy felt this may attract individuals who don't normally come to the Senior Center.

**c. Suggestions from CIRMA regarding Registration Forms and Transportation Forms.** Ms. Wilson reported CIRMA has offered suggestions on registration forms for hiking and biking programs. Mr. Bekech felt some activities are more injury prone. Ms. Hardy stated a subcommittee of the Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources are requesting more bike roads.

**d. Purchase of New Ice Machine from Parahus Account.** Ms. Wilson reported the ice machine is broken and a new one will cost approximately \$2500. Ms. Hardy felt the Parahus Account should be used only for extra purchases for seniors. She suggested that Ms. Wilson go to the Board of Selectmen to request that the Town purchase it.

**MOTION (4):** **BB Smith moved to request that the Board of Selectmen fund a new ice machine for the Senior Center that is used for the general community. Seconded by Mr. Bekech. (5-0) Unanimous.**

**e. Other Pertinent Business.** There was no other pertinent business discussed.

**5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION** There were no guests.

**6. BOARD RESPONSE** There was no need to respond.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (5):** **Mr. Bekech moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of January 13, 2020 at 6:05 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (5-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary