

**EAST LYME COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 9th, 2020**

Present: John Whritner, Chairman, Mike Bekech, Marge Caste, Assistant Chair,
BB Smith

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Senior Services Coordinator

Absent: Joe Palazzo, Joan Bengtson, Eileen Harris

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Acting Chairman Whritner called the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of March 9, 2020 to order at 5:00 PM.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was observed.

b. Delegations

Mr. Whritner called for delegations.
There were no delegations.

c. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2020

Mr. Whritner called for any corrections, additions or deletions to the Regular Minutes of the Commission of January 13, 2020

****MOTION (1)**

Ms. Caste moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Commission of January 13, 2020 as presented.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

d. Correspondence

There was no additional correspondence.

e. Election of Officers

Mr. Whritner called for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Commission on Aging for FY2020.

****MOTION (2)**

Ms. Smith nominated Mr. Whritner for the position of Chairman of the Commission on Aging for FY2020.
Mr. Bekech seconded the nomination.

Mr. Whritner asked if there were any other nominations –

Hearing none –

He called for a vote on the nomination.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Whritner called for nominations for the position of Assistant Chairman of the Commission on Aging for FY2020.

****MOTION (3)**

Ms. Smith nominated Ms. Caste for the position of Assistant Chairman of the Commission on Aging for FY2020.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT

Mar 13, 2020 AT 10:09 AM/PM
Bridget Strum
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Mr. Bekech seconded the nomination.

Mr. Whritner asked if there were any other nominations –

Hearing none –

He called for a vote on the nomination.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Whritner called for nominations for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Commission on Aging for FY2020.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. Bekech nominated Ms. Harris for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Commission on Aging for FY2020.

Ms. Smith seconded the nomination.

Mr. Whritner asked if there were any other nominations –

Hearing none –

He called for a vote on the nomination.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation -

Ms. Wilson reported that they have not been offering as many rides and that the numbers are down due to the seasonal (winter) variations and will come back up in the spring. She said that she also has a driver 'shadowing' so that they will have two drivers.

b. Senior Trips

(1) Enrichment Trips – Ms. Wilson reported on the following trips for April:

On Wednesday April 8 they will go to Sadler's Ordinary in Marlborough. The Trip fee is \$5.

On Wednesday April 22 they will take a trip out to Toyo Hibachi & Asian fusion in Colchester. The Trip fee is \$5.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips – Ms. Wilson reported on the following upcoming day trips:

April 2, 2020 – Mohegan Sun Casino – Trip has been CANCELLED due to low registration.

April 16, 2020 – Blithewold Mansion in Bristol, RI – Daffodil Days with Lunch at the Lobster Pot. Trip fee is \$80. Registration has begun. Moderate Walking.

April 25, 2020 – West Point Academy for their annual U.S. Military Academy Cadet Review with lunch at the Thayer Hotel. You will need to provide a proper Government issued photo ID for the trip. Trip fee is \$132. Registration has begun. Lots of walking.

May 2, 2020 – New York on your own. Trip fee is \$55. No meal included in trip price. Registration has begun. Lots of walking.

May 28, 2020 – St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC – Catacombs by Candlelight. Lunch on your own at Urbanspace Food Hall. Trip fee is \$95. Registration has begun. Lots of walking.

June 19, 2020 – Trip to the Newport Flower show at Rosecliff Mansion in Newport, RI with lunch/shopping on your own at the Wharf. Trip fee is \$50. Registration has begun. Moderate walking.

June 24, 2020 – Tea Lunch at the Delaney House in Holyoke, MA with River Cruise on the Lady Bea. Trip fee is \$98. Lunch is included. Trip fee is \$98. Registration has begun. Moderate walking.

July 16, 2020 – Guided Raft Trip with Crabapple Whitewater in the Deerfield River Valley. This is an easy whitewater trip. Trip fee is \$152. Lunch is included. Trip fee is \$152. Registration begins April 1. Easy walking but you will get wet.

W/O July 27, 2020 – Repeat of a sell out – Trip to Webster Lake - \$92-\$98.....details to come.

Upcoming overnight trips:

May 7-8, 2020 – Chinese Lantern Festival in Philadelphia. Includes Festival, local food tour and tour of Eastern State Penitentiary. \$299pp double or triple occupancy. Registration has begun.

August 21-29, 2020 – Colorado Rockies – 9 day trip, visit four national parks. Transportation & transfers included as well as 11 meals. Prices start at \$3499pp double occupancy. Registration has begun.

September 4-11, 2020 – Alaskan Cruise – 8 days on Celebrity Solstice. Air Fare included. Prices start at \$2548pp. Registration has begun.

October 3-12, 2020 – Shades of Ireland – 10 days. Includes 13 meals. Visit Dublin, Blarney Castle, Kilkenny, Waterford and more. Transportation and transfers included. Prices start at \$3649pp double occupancy. Registration has begun.

October 7-9, 2020 – Queen Esther at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. Trip included stop at the Appalachian Brewing Co. and Mount Hope Estate & Winery. Prices start at \$565pp double occupancy. Registration has begun.

March 6-14, 2021 – Tropical Costa Rica – 9 days with optional three night jungle adventure. 14 meals included. Transportation and transfers included. Prices start at \$2679pp double occupancy. Registration begins April 1.

c. Programs

(1) **Senior Nutrition Program** – Ms. Wilson reported that with many people passing away or moving into care facilities they are serving very few meals. New people are not interested in filling out the paperwork for the program so the numbers are down. The Meals on Wheels numbers are also down. However, the dining room program does not tend to bounce back it just continues the downward spiral and it is a lot of effort for three to four people.

Ms. Smith said that they really cannot run a Senior Center spending so much time on the nutrition end.

Mr. Whitner suggested just reducing it to Fridays only.

(2) **Senior Center Programs - Ongoing** – Ms. Wilson reported that the programs were doing well so far.

(3) **Senior Center Programs - New** – Ms. Wilson reported that they were holding the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater this week Friday and have sold 110 tickets so far. The max is 130. In April Attorney McNamara would present 'Living Wills'. She said that they would also be

holding a session on 'End of Life Planning – Leaving Your Legacy' as often times these things are not discussed. Lastly, May 9, 202 is Shred Day.

d. Budget – General Fund, Revolving Account

Ms. Wilson reported that the budget is doing fine and is on track.

e. Revenues – General Fund, Revolving Account

Ms. Wilson reported that the revenues are also doing okay now but they will have to see with the virus issue and how the trips do.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Rebranding of the Senior Center

There was no discussion.

b. New Newsletter Design

There was no discussion

c. Budget Request for FY20/21

Ms. Wilson said that her budget had made it through the Board of Selectmen okay as her budget is showing a decrease. The next step is to go before the Board of Finance on March 23, 2020. They are welcome to attend. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

d. Purchase of New Ice Machine

Ms. Wilson said that this will come out of the operating account rather than the Parahus account as there is money for it.

e. Other Pertinent Business

There was none.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Re-Posting of Program Coordinator Position

Ms. Wilson reported that this posting will close on March 13, 2020 and that she is looking towards March 25, 2020 to hold the interviews. She said that she would send emails to them regarding having a panel member.

b. New Carpeting for Senior Center

Ms. Wilson said that the Library is looking to replace their carpet and the thought is that they could include the senior center carpet in with it for a lower price overall. There is more to come on this.

c. Purchase of New Program Laptop

Ms. Wilson said that they had one and that it died. IT recommended an Experian at \$550. She said that this is nice to have for on-line training for the drivers and others. This would come from the Parahus account.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. Bekech moved to approve the purchase of a laptop computer from the Parahus account in an amount up to \$600 for use in Senior Center training.

Ms. Caste seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

d. Review of Non-Resident Fees

Ms. Wilson presented information on what other Towns charge. She indicated that it appears that they charge 30% more for non-residents. She asked that they review the information for discussion at their next meeting.

Mr. Whritner suggested that they ask Parks & Rec how they handle this.

e. Other Pertinent Business

Ms. Wilson mentioned the Covid-19 issues noting that Governor Lamont updates daily and is reviewing events of more than 100 people.

Ms. Wilson also reported on background checks for the MOW's drivers noting that she was just putting this out there for them due to current events. She said that their drivers are all volunteers.

Ms. Smith asked who was responsible for the drivers.

Ms. Wilson said that they are.

Ms. Smith suggested that it might be good paperwork to generate since it falls back on them even though they are volunteers and not paid.

Ms. Wilson said that she will look into this further and get back to them.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no public discussion.

6. BOARD RESPONSE

There was no public discussion.

7. ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION (6)**

Ms. Smith moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of March 11, 2019 at 5:40 PM.

Ms. Caste seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 - 0 - 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary, Pro-tem