

COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2020

PRESENT: John Whritner, Chairman
Marge Caste
Michael Bekech
Ilene Harris
B.B. Smith

FILED

Oct 16, 20 20 AT 8:23 AM/PM

Absent: Joan Bengtson

Brooke Hansen ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

- a. The pledge of allegiance was observed.
- b. Delegations. There were no delegations.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2020. Mr. Whritner called for any corrections, additions or deletions of the March 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2020.

MOTION (1): Mr. Bekech moved to approve the March 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Harris. Ms. Harris abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

- d. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.

2. STATUS REPORT

- a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported maintenance has been done quarterly on all vehicles since March. Currently, the vehicles are being cycled through the Town Garage for this quarter. She stated the R-2 and R-3 have had their inspections done for their registration renewal. Vehicles R-1 and R-3 annual lift inspection have been performed. R2 has not had its annual lift inspection as it is not in use and will be replaced once the new vehicle arrives.

Acrylic shields were placed behind the driver seat in response to COVID issues. An option of placing a small shield on each of the passenger seats was rejected as being too much of an obstacle for the passengers. With colder weather approaching, the Senior Center is looking at installing Pro-Air filters in each vehicle as an additional protection for the driver and the passengers. With the warm weather, windows could be left open to allow air to pass through the vehicle. They cost \$600 each. We would need one for each vehicle. Our garage can install them. We would need to spend \$1200. She asked the Commission to consider it.

Commission member BB Smith arrived.

Ms. Wilson stated we are waiting for the new vehicle to arrive.

- b. Senior Trips
 - (1) Enrichment Trips. All enrichment trips have been cancelled.
 - (2) Day Trips. All day trips have been cancelled.

The following tours are planned to be held: A 9-day adventure June 6-14, 2021 to the Painted Canyons of the West, including 11 meals. Departure from NYC \$3,529 for double

occupancy, \$4,429 for single occupancy, \$3,479 for triple occupancy. Trip insurance is strongly encouraged for an additional \$299pp. August 27-September 3, 2021 for an 8 day Alaskan Cruise onboard the Celebrity Solstice. Airfare is included. Depart from T.F.Green Airport in Providence, R.I. Prices start at \$2,668pp. September 8-17, 2021 for 10 day Shades of Ireland including 13 meals. Depart from NYC \$3,629pp double occupancy, \$4,329pp single occupancy, or \$3,599pp for triple occupancy. Trip insurance is strongly encouraged for an additional \$399pp. October 6-8, 2021 for 3 days/2 nights in Lancaster, PA to see "Queen Esther" at the Sight and Sound Theatre. Visit the Appalachian Brewing Co., Kitchen Kettle Village, and the Mount Hope Estate and Winery \$565pp double occupancy, \$715pp single occupancy or \$515pp triple occupancy. October 4-12, 2021 for a 9- day trip to Tropical Costa Rica with 14 meals. Depart from NYC \$2,229 double occupancy, \$2,199 triple occupancy. Trip insurance is strongly encouraged for an additional \$399pp.

c. Programs

- (1) Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson reported we have had no congregate dining since March. Meals-on-Wheels are being delivered. The meals were being delivered cold because the Senior Center staff were using one vehicle to deliver all the meals. When meals were heated, the last delivery while of safe temperature, was not appealing. If new residents came on to the program, they were coded as a one-week delivery. We began calling back our volunteer drivers in August. Some drivers chose to not come back. We are still delivering meals cold as the participants have indicated they like it.

At TVCCA, an individual had contact with someone who had COVID. Because of this, the delivery of meals was suspended for 2 weeks and just resumed as of October 13th. All clients were notified and queried if they enough food. Everyone was fine. deliveries have resumed today.

- (2) Senior Center Programs – Ongoing. The Hiking Program resumed in September and October on Fridays with ten people or less. Yoga is being held at Bridebrook on Tuesday mornings. FitDance started in September on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at McCooks and is still running. We will start slowly to bring in classes but with less participants. We resumed our foot clinic. In October we had a drive through flu clinic. Shred Day will be held on October 24. A tailgate party will be held on October 16th. A drive by donut event will be held on October 30. In November the Lions Club will have a grab and go dinner. We will have Open Enrollment through December 7. In November we are considering running a vehicle as a turkey trolley and serving Thanksgiving on a bun. We are considering pet therapy.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Budget – General Fund, Revolving Account. The Commission reviewed the General Fund Budget for 2019/2020. The budget of \$256,747 was approved. We are offering programs at no cost but accepting donations.

b. Purchase of New Ice Machine. The new ice machine was purchased at a cost of \$500 from Building Maintenance

c. Other Pertinent Business. There was no other pertinent business.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Re-Posting of Program Coordinator Position/Interview Process. The Program Coordinator Position was re-posted and interviews were scheduled. The position was postponed to the second quarter. In August we had 29 applicants. Sally Ritchie, former Waterford Senior Services Director reviewed the applicants and we scheduled 9 candidates to be interviewed. Three people dropped out so a total of 6 candidates were interviewed. We brought back four for a second interview and Senior Center staff were involved with this process as we work in such close quarters. Ms. Wilson stated she hopes to have hired a Program Coordinator by next week.
- b. Purchase of New Program Laptop. Because many programs will be resumed using Zoom, the Senior Center would like to purchase a laptop as Ms. Wilson reported some of her instructors do not have one. She would like to purchase one for programs and for Medicare meetings. Ms. Harris suggested that she check with the school system to determine if the cost would be less.

MOTION (2): Ms. Harris moved to withdraw \$1,000 from the Parahus Account for the purpose of buying a laptop. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (5-0) Unanimous.

- c. Expenditure from the Parahus Account Regarding a New Vehicle.

MOTION (3): Mr. Bekech moved to authorize Ms. Wilson to withdraw \$7,971 from the Parahus Account towards a new vehicle. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (5-0) Unanimous.

- d. Status of Senior Center and COVID-19. Ms. Wilson reported we have rearranged the office area and purchased partitions. We have changed the reception area in order for visitors to be greeted by the receptionist. We now have a shield in front of us. March 13 was the last day we had programs. This week we are getting ready to open the door to people. We will try to bring in a few programs at no charge. The cost will come out of the Special Revenue Fund.

Mr. Whritner complimented Ms. Wilson on the great job she has done in dealing with COVID-19 at the Senior Center.

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

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION There were no guests.

6. BOARD RESPONSE. None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (3): Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the October 13, 2020 Commission On Aging Regular Meeting at 5:55 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary