

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 9, 2020**

PRESENT: John Whritner, Chairman
Marge Caste
Michael Bekech
Ilene Harris
Joan Bengtson

Absent: B.B. Smith
Joe Palazzo

Also Present: Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio
Candy Heikkinen, Program Coordinator

FILED
Nov 12 20 20 AT 3:20 AM/PM
[Signature]
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 – October 13, 2020. Mr. Whritner called for any corrections, additions or deletions of the October 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (1): Ms. Caste moved to approve the October 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Commission on Aging, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Harris. Ms. Bengtson abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

- d. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.

2. STATUS REPORT

- a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported the new vehicle is expected to arrive by mid-December. She recommended purchasing new filters for each of the vehicles. They are in stock and will cost \$625 each. The filters are required to change every six months. The Senior Center did not budget for this purchase in the current FY but since we are not spending money at this time, it could conceivably be paid for from the current budget. The SRF is currently being used to pay for instructors with no revenues coming in from participants and it is felt that this expenditure should not come from that account. Or the parts could be purchased from the Parahus Account.

MOTION (2): Ilene Harris moved to authorize Ms. Wilson to withdraw up to \$2,000 from the Parahus Account for new filters for each of the vehicles. Seconded by Ms. Bengtson. (5-0) Unanimous.

Ms. Hardy asked if there are other companies besides Mathew busses that produce these filters? Ms. Wilson stated she did not but is willing to do so. She felt it was appropriate to use the Parahus Account to purchase them. Ms. Wilson agreed to contact other companies if it is deemed necessary.

b. Senior Trips. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission she is considering trips during the summer months. At the present time the 55-passenger bus is limited to 30 passengers. We will need two months in advance of the trip to advertise. Travel insurance is recommended. Ms. Hardy asked if a deposit is given and the trip cancels will their money be returned. Ms. Wilson replied we will get our money back.

(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 addition \$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 there is nothing new to report on the Senior Nutrition Program.

(2) Senior Center Programs – Ongoing. Strength Training is on Monday by Zoom only and started on November 2nd. Senior Fitness is offered on Monday only via Zoom and that started on November 2nd. Ukulele and Guitar have been running since September strictly on Zoom. We have started an Acting Class and ten individuals have registered. This class is only via Zoom. Yoga was being held at Bridebrook on Tuesday mornings but as the weather got colder it has come indoors. The size of the class is limited to 12 and the doors of the Activity Room are kept open. The class is also being offered via Zoom. Once it becomes too cold for the doors to be open, the class will be entirely via Zoom. FitDance started in September on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at McCooks. It is running but has come indoors. The maximum amount number of students is 10 per class and the doors are kept open. The next classes to bring back will be Tai Chi and Chair Yoga once per week. There is no charge currently for any of the classes.

d. Budget – General Fund Revolving Account. The budget is doing fine.

e. Revenues – General Fund, Revolving Account. We are asking for donations for classes because we have not charged for them.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Program Coordinator Position. Ms. Wilson reported Mr. Bekech was on the interview panel and reviewed resumes. Ms. Wilson introduced Candy Heikkinen the new Program

Coordinator. Ms. Heikkinen is putting together programs for the month of December. We are trying grab and go events and looking at on-line programs. Ms. Heikkinen informed the Commission she graduated from East Lyme High School. She has worked at hospitality and travel.

- b. Status of the Senior Center and COVID-19. Ms. Wilson reported the state has returned to Phase 2.1. The doors to the Senior Center remain closed. Other senior centers are closed. We will allow one person at a time for Energy Assistance applications. No new classes will be held indoors at this time.
- c. Other Pertinent Business. There was no other pertinent business.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Meeting Schedule for 2021. The Commission reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2021.

MOTION (3): Ms. Harris moved to approve the 2021 meeting schedule for the Commission on Aging, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Bengston. (5-0) Unanimous.

- b. Other Pertinent Business. There was no other pertinent business.

MOTION (4): Ms. Caste moved to adjourn the November 9, 2020 Commission On Aging Regular Meeting at 6:35 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary