

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 14, 2020**

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

Absent: Joan Bengtson  
Joe Palazzo

**FILED**

Dec 15 20 20 AT 1:25 AM/PM  
Karen Gallo  
**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 – November 9, 2020. Mr. Whritner called for any corrections, additions or deletions of the November 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION (1): Mr. Bekech moved to approve the November 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Commission on Aging, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Caste. BB Smith 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 will arrive the week of the 21<sup>st</sup>. She had discussion with Anna Johnson, Finance Director, regarding its payment. We will receive funds from DOT. We have received the invoice. As soon as we receive the funds, we can release the check. The R-2 and R-3 are 2010 vehicles. The R-2 has 116,393 miles on it. The R-3 has 93,505 miles on it. Its body has a lot of rust. The Town Garage feels the R-2 should be replaced. When the new vehicle is received, it is felt we can send the R-3 to a body shop. We will retire the R-2 and take care of the body of the R-3.
- b. Senior Trips.
  - (1) Enrichment Trips. All enrichment trips have been cancelled.
  - (2) Day Trips. All day trips have been cancelled. Ms. Wilson had discussion with Waterford and Old Lyme on when to resume Day trips. It was felt that we should be able to resume them in July.
- c. Programs
  - (1) Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson reported we will deliver extra Meals-on-Wheels on Wednesday because of the expected storm on Thursday. There is no indoor dining. No programs are being run at the Senior Center. The café clients are now taking Meals-on-Wheels.
  - (2) Senior Center Programs – Ongoing. All Senior Center Programs are on Zoom. When we introduce classes, it takes a few weeks for it to run. We are offering Fitness, Strength Training, Yoga, Ukulele, Guitar, Drama, Tai Chi and Chair Yoga. For those classes that are

twice a week we are starting them twice a week. Strength Training will resume in January and will be held twice a week.

- (3) Senior Center Programs-New. Ms. Wilson reported Ms. Heikkinen tried a Trivial game, Pet Party, Bingo and is putting together a bird watching class on Zoom. Some programs lend themselves to Zoom. Zumba and Fitness does not do well with Zoom.
- d. Budget – General Fund Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson reported we are only paying payroll and office supplies. The General Fund Revolving Account is doing ok.
- e. Revenues – General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission we are asking for donations from those participating in classes.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Status of the Senior Center and COVID-19. Ms. Wilson reported since East Lyme is in red alert, no programs are being held at the Community Center. Last week the First Selectman closed the Town Hall to the public. Ms. Wilson contacted him to request that she be allowed to offer transportation to seniors. He agreed to that. She discussed holding meetings at the Senior Center wearing masks and distancing. He felt that was ok. Meals-on-Wheels will continue.

Ms. Harris suggested that Ms. Wilson contact the VNA or a local drugstore to give COVID vaccines at the Senior Center. Ms. Wilson agreed to contact Ledge Light. Ms. Wilson felt her drivers are exposed and should be vaccinated also.

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

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Budget Request for FY21/22. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission her budget has a 5% increase to it due to the new Program Coordinator position. For three months there was no Program Coordinator. Office equipment maintenance will increase by \$10 per month.

**MOTION (2):** Ms. Harris moved to approve the Commission on Aging Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 in the amount of \$257,184. Seconded by Mr. Bekech. (5-0) Unanimous.

- b. Vacation for Director. Ms. Wilson reported she will be taking the rest of this week off.
- c. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission the Senior Center had a float in the Light Parade and won first place. The weather was beautiful and 1,500 cars went through McCook's to see the floats.

**MOTION (3):** BB Smith moved to adjourn the December 14, 2020 Commission On Aging Regular Meeting at 5:35 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Gherzi, Recording Secretary