

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2021**

Present: John Whritner
Marge Caste
Joan Bengtson
Ilene Harris
Michel Bekech
B.B. Smith

FILED

Jan 14 2021 AT 8:15 AM/PM
Caum Thulw
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Joe Palazzo

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Director

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

- a. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.
- b. Delegations. There were no guests.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2020. Mr. Whritner asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the December 14, 2020 Commission on Aging Minutes.

MOTION (1): Mr. Bekech moved to approve the December 14, 2020 Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Caste. Ms. Bengtson abstained from voting. (4-0-1)

- d. Correspondence. No new correspondence was received.
- e. Election of Officers. Mr. Whritner asked for nominations for Secretary of the Commission on Aging for 2021.

MOTION (2): Ms. Caste moved to nominate Ilene Harris as Secretary of the Commission on Aging for 2021. Seconded by Mr. Bekech. (5-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Whritner asked if there were any other nominations for Secretary of the Commission on Aging for 2021. There were no other nominations for Secretary and the nominations were closed.

A vote was taken and Ms. Harris was unanimously elected Secretary of the Commission on Aging for 2021.

Mr. Whritner asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2021.

MOTION (3): Mr. Bekech moved to nominate Marge Caste as Vice Chairlady for the Commission on Aging for 2021. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (5-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Whritner asked if there were any other nominations for Vice Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2021. There were no other nominations for Vice Chairman and the nominations were closed.

A vote was taken and Ms. Caste was unanimously elected as Vice Chairlady for the Commission on Aging for 2021.

Mr. Whritner asked if there were any nominations for Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2021.

MOTION (4): Ms. Caste moved to nominate John Whritner as Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2021. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (5-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Whritner asked if there were any other nominations for Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2021. There were no other nominations and the nominations for Chairman were closed.

A vote was taken and Mr. Whritner was unanimously elected Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2021.

2. STATUS REPORT

- a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported she sent the required quarterly statistics to DOT for the current vehicle purchased through the 5310 grant. The current vehicle obtained through the 5310 grant had a vehicle recall and delivery will be delayed. She is scheduling all vehicles for quarterly maintenance. The HEPA filters to be installed in each vehicle due to the corona virus have been delivered and will be installed as the vehicles go to the garage for their quarterly maintenance this month.

All drivers are fine and able to handle transportation. Ms. Caste asked now that the filters have been received will more passengers be allowed on the bus? Ms. Wilson agreed to check on that. At this time, there is only one passenger allowed on the vehicle at a time. At the maximum, during this time, it would be three.

- b. Senior Trips. Ms. Wilson reported no trips have been scheduled. She plans to try to schedule in July or August. It may be earlier. It depends on what happens with the vaccine.
- c.
 1. Senior Nutrition Program. Nothing is new.
 2. Senior Center Programs – Ongoing. Ms. Heikkinen is reaching out to current instructors and volunteer facilitators regarding having ongoing programs on-line. People are attending the Zoom classes but attendance is definitely less than in-person classes.

Commission member B.B. Smith arrived.

3. Senior Center Programs—New. Ms. Heikkinen is working to determine how people are responding to programs on line. She is using Facebook to publicize new programs. Ms. Wilson is working on the mechanics of the tax program. Details are still in discussion. We are now considering giving preference to those individuals who have used this program in the past. Ms. Smith asked is there a charge for this program? Ms. Wilson replied it is free.

- d. Budget. Ms. Wilson reported 98% of the cost associated with running our programs via Zoom are coming out of the Special Review Fund.
- e. Revenue. Ms. Wilson reported revenues are essentially zero. We have been asking individuals who take classes to give a donation and they have given donations.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Status of the Senior Center and COVID 19. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission we are considering moving programs indoors in May once and the windows/doors can be open or running programs outdoors when the weather gets warmer.
- b. Budget Request for FY21/22. Ms. Wilson reported she met with First Selectman Mark Nickerson and Finance Director Anna Johnson and presented the budget. They had no objections to it. She was informed they would like all departments to give back some money from its 2020 budget to the General Fund. Ms. Wilson has been working on tracking expenses directly related to COVID.
- c. Other Pertinent Business. There was no other pertinent business.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Status of COVID-19 Vaccine. Ms. Wilson reported shortly group 1b for aged 75 and older will be available. Ms. Wilson is speaking to the Meals-on-Wheels drivers to see if they would like to move to group 1b as they are potentially considered essential workers which is a group 1b. She spoken to Ledge Light Health District to let them know the Community Center would be available for any sort of vaccination clinic. She was also asked to speak with Mr. Nickerson to see if there has been any discussion between the Town and local pharmacies. At this time, there has not been.
- b. Other Pertinent Business. There was no other pertinent business.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There were no guests.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (5): Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging January 11, 2021 Regular Meeting at 6:35 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Bengston. (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

