

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2021
MINUTES

This meeting was held via Zoom online meeting services and was available for the public to view, listen and participate via videoconference and dial-in options.

This meeting, in its entirety, is available to view by visiting the East Lyme Town Hall webpage.

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Rose Ann Hardy, Marc Salerno, Paul Dagle and Dan Cunningham

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson and Chief of Police Mike Finkelstein

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

FILED

1b. Additional Agenda Items

There were none.

March 2 2021 AT 11:11 AM PM
Karen Wilson
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1c. Delegations

There were none.

1d. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2021, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 6-0.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of February 17, 2021, in the amount of \$946.22. Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

2a. Special Appropriation – NSEF (Nuclear Safety Equipment Fund) EOC Furniture - \$20,334.00

DISCUSSION: Chief Finkelstein stated that they require Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance approval to expend these funds, which have already been awarded. Mr. Nickerson thanked the Chief, Julie Wilson, and everyone who plays a role in writing these grants, for all their hard work in securing these funds.

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$20,334.00, from NSEP (Nuclear Safety Equipment Program) Award 2021-67 to account 01-70-725-224-006 (NSEP – Equipment) for purchasing various communications and office equipment for the new EOC (Emergency Operations Center) and forward to the Board of Finance for approval. Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

2b. Discussion and Possible Action – Parks & Rec / Darrows Pond

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson noted that Parks and Recreation Director David Putnam, as well as Commission Chairman Tom Beebe and Member Todd Donovan were in attendance tonight. He stated that he has met with the Town Attorney, and they found that there are some deed restrictions set in place as part of a conservation easement to benefit the Friends of Oswegatchie Hills, who are the conservator, so they will need to take a step back and review this matter a little further and bring this up again at a future meeting. He suggested possibly giving 100 acres to Parks and Recreation versus the 300 acres that was initially discussed. Mr. Putnam stated that there are no active fields planned, and that there are many types of passive recreation activities that would be appropriate for that piece of land. The Commission is aware of the conservation easement and understands the restrictions, and what they have planned would be allowable within those restrictions. Mr. Todd Donovan heads up a newly created subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and he stated that they met for the first-time last Wednesday and that they had good resident turnout. He reported that they spent some time suggesting possible uses for that land and created a short survey that that plan to send out to residents to get more feedback on what types of passive activities the residents would like to see and would be more likely to utilize. He stated that the commission will continue to seek out land north of route 95 as the commission has few parks in that part of town.

2c. Appointments to Board/Commission

This matter has been postponed.

3. Communications – COA Annual Report

Attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Mr. Salerno reported that the Planning Commission discussed creating a subcommittee to work on the affordable housing needs of the town and provide a two-year plan to the State as directed. He noted that the Commission currently does have an Affordable Housing Plan, so this committee will review that and investigate future needs and solutions. Mr. Salerno reported that Larry Fitzgerald has recently been appointed to the Planning Commission to fill the term of a member who resigned.

Ms. Hardy reported that the Zoning Commission is meeting tomorrow night and they will have a public hearing regarding proposed work at the building on Boston Post Road next to East Lyme Pizza. This building was the former rectory for the church across the street, and most recently has served as a hair and nail salon. They are proposing the demolition of the current structure and building a new building with commercial zoned spaced on the first floor and five one-bedroom apartments on the second floor.

Mr. Dagle reported that the Harbor Management Commission is working on the five-year shellfish lease renewal to T.J. Londergan for his scallop farm in the bay. They would like to make changes to such lease and would like to send that along to the Town Attorney for review, and Mr. Nickerson stated that yes it would be appropriate for the Town Attorney to review said lease, and the Town Attorney should determine if it is the Harbor Management Commission's authority to issue such leases or is it the Board of Selectmen's authority. Mr. Dagle reported that they continue to wait for the outcome of the First Selectman's discussions with Waterford on the town boundary line dispute in the river. He stated that they are pursuing habitat restoration opportunities in the Pattagansett Estuary area and will seek funding for that project. Mr. Dagle reported that they will begin reviewing the Shellfish Management Plan, which is due to be reviewed and updated; this will be a lengthy process and will involve first the Board of Selectmen approval and then State approval.

4b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that the Senior Center is in receipt of their new bus; it is now being registered with the DMV and will be on the road and in use shortly. He reported that the Starlight Motel and the Mobil station have both been purchased by the State of Connecticut via eminent domain and that the project is moving along, with both facilities closing in a month. Mr. Nickerson stated that there are some permanent residents that may be displaced and in need of assistance in a month from now, and the Town will be obligated to assist them should that need arise; he will pursue assistance from the State for such expenses should this happen.

5. Public Comment

Ms. Anneliese Lapides, 39 Romagna Road, Niantic, introduced herself as the Director of Community Engagement for the Southeastern Connecticut Organization for Racial Equity (SCORE). Ms. Lapides stated that she is a medical student at the University of Vermont and that one of the most important concepts that she has learned so far in her education is not related directly to biology or how the body works, but rather how social determinant affects one's health. Ms. Lapides stated that they have been gathering signatures from members of the community and currently have over 600, as well as letters of support including a letter from the Ledge Light Health District calling for this discussion to be a priority in the community. Ms. Lapides requested that the Board of Selectmen put this matter on a future agenda so that they may present their information and they have a resolution that they would ask that the Board support declaring racism a public health crisis.

Executive Session

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery MOVED to enter into executive session at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery MOVED to exit executive session and return to the regular meeting with no formal votes taken at 8:17 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the February 17, 2021, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:17 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sandra Anderson

Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary



East Lyme Senior Center ANNUAL REPORT FY19/20

The East Lyme Senior Center is located at the Nicholas Parahus Senior Center, which is part of the Community Center Complex, housed off of Society Road. It is a designated Focal Point - as approved by Senior Resources Area Agency of Aging for the Area Plan of 2017 – 2021.

The Senior Center continues to explore funding sources and applied for and received the Dept. of Transportation State Matching Grant for Elderly & Disabled Responsive Transportation for the 10th year in a row. This grant provides transportation to East Lyme residents for medical appointments within southern New London County. In addition, the Senior Center applied for and received the 5310 Grant offered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation to replace an aging Senior Center bus. That vehicle will be put into operation in FY20/21.

In our commitment to communicate with the Town's older adults, the Senior Center has a Facebook page; a site on the Town of East Lyme website at ww.eltownhall.com and participates in a regional senior center website: www.seniorcenterct.org. The Senior Center also maintains an email distribution list to forward information to any interested party. Anyone can be added to this email list by contacting the Senior Center office.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the operation of the Senior Center was dramatically affected. On March 13th, 2020, the Senior Center essentially, with a few exceptions, ended any indoor programming. Transportation service was curtailed. To counter this elimination of indoor programming, weather permitting, classes were held outside or were presented via Zoom. On the following pages are the programs and services provided by the East Lyme Senior Center from 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020.

The following are members of Commission on Aging Board:

Mr. John Whritner, Chair Ms. Marge Caste, Vice-Chair
Ms. Ilene Harris, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Joseph Palazzo Ms. Joan Bengtson
Ms. Barbara Smith Mr. Michael Bekech
Ms. Roseanne Hardy, Ex-Officio

Regular monthly meetings (with the exception of the August 2019 annual break) were held until March 2020. At that time, the monthly Commission on Aging Board meetings were suspended until October 2020. At that point, they resumed. Special meetings were held as needed.

The following are staff members of the East Lyme Senior Center:

Ms. Cathy Wilson, Senior Center Director
Ms. Kristen Caramanica, Program Coordinator - until October 2019
Ms. Jane Bowen Senior Center Associate
Ms. Roxanne Kormos, Bus Driver
Mr. John Hallissey, Bus Driver
Ms. Melissa Victor, Bus Driver
Mr. Joseph Savoie, Bus Driver

In October 2019, Program Coordinator Kristen Caramanica, took a position with the East Hartford Senior Center. Because of the pandemic, that position remained open until October 2020. The East Lyme Senior Center and the Commission on Aging Board are fully committed to serving every older adult in East Lyme by providing support and assistance. Any concerns or comments are welcome at both the Commission on Aging Board Meetings and the Commission on Aging Office located within the East Lyme Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
John Whritner
Chairman, Commission on Aging Board
Cathy J. Wilson
Senior Center Director

NUTRITION/FOOD PROGRAMS

Senior Nutrition Program

Total # of Meals Served		13,081	↓7%
Congregate Site Clients	# of meals served	1,896	↓15%
Homebound Clients	# of meals served	11,185	↓5.6%



TRANSPORTATION

Senior Center Vehicles Usage			
# of Clients Served for the Year	92		↓28%
Total Mileage for the Year	21,154		↓33%
Average Monthly Mileage	1,763		
Total # of Riders	2,330		↓68%
Average Monthly Ridership	194		
Total # of Rides	4,253		↓70%
Average Monthly Rides	354		



Senior Center transportation usage continues to increase, particularly the number of stops that are made for each individual. The number of clients using the service has remained steady.

Dial a Ride Medical Transport (Grant Funded)

# of Clients Registered for the Service	61	↓33%
# of Clients Served for the Year	38	↓53%
# of Trips Taxi/Livery Rides	410	↓53%
# of Trips Caregiver Mileage Reimbursement Portion	108	↓150%

Total East Lyme Trips (Taxi & Caregiver)	518	↓75%
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The Dial-a-Ride grant is comprised of 2 sections: mileage reimbursement for a person who provides a medical ride for an enrolled client and the actual provision of rides to medical appointment for enrolled clients. During the FY17/18, the provision of rides had to be suspended in February 2019 due to an unexpected increase in usage.

In order to avoid a similar situation in FY19/20, the maximum number of rides that can be provided by the grant was reduced from 24 one-way trips to 12 one-way trips.

ATTENDANCE TO PROGRAMS

# of Clients Served for the Year	1,256	↓35%
Attendance Statistics for Programs	17,331	↓46%
Attendance Statistics for Congregate Site Clients	1,896	↓15%
Total Attendance Figures	19,227	↓43%

Senior Center attendance continues to trend upwards as more people become eligible to participate in programs.



SERVICE PROGRAMS

- AARP-Mature Driver Safety Course
- AARP-Tax Aide Program
- Blood Pressure Clinics held by the V.N.A.S.C.
- Caregiver Support Group



- Energy Assistance - State of Connecticut Program - Operation Fuel - Project WarmUp
- Foot Clinic held by the V.N.A.S.C.
- Flu Vaccine Clinic held by the V.N.A.S.C.
- Health Seminars - *Tired or Sore Legs - Fall Prevention & Home Safety*
- Health Insurance Counselors Assistance Program
- Hearing Clinic - Monthly
- Lamination Services

- Meals on Wheels delivery
- Medicaid Assistance
- Medicare Savings Programs Assistance
- Open Enrollment Assistance for Medicare Part D Enrollees
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- Renter's Rebate Program Assistance
- Shred Day Events
- Tools for Caregivers series
- Transportation Services for Election Day



ENRICHMENT/FUN PROGRAMS

- BINGO
- Bocce - Indoor and Outdoor
- Brain Aerobics
- Bridge - Weekly - Duplicate - ABCL Sanctioned
- Bridge - Weekly - Duplicate
- Bridge - Weekly - Rubber Bridge Shoot Out

ENRICHMENT/FUN PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Bunco

Bicycling Club

Canasta – Hand & Foot

Chair Yoga

Chapter of our Lives writing program

Chorus

Cookbook Club

Craft Classes – Miscellaneous

Drawing Class

Guitar Jam session



Hiking Programs

Lunches

Mah Jongg

Manicures

Massage Therapy

Mini Facials

Musical Entertainment

Music Lessons – Advanced Beginner Ukulele

Music Lessons – Advanced Beginner Guitar

P.A.C.E. – People with Arthritis Can Exercise Classes

Painting Group

Pickleball

Ping Pong

Quilting – Daytime and Evening

Reflexology

Reiki

Scene & Acting Class

Stitch Happens

Tai Chi

Technology Assistance with ELHS Students

Trip/Cruise Presentations

Senior Fitness Classes

Scrabble

Strength Training Classes

VSA Acappella Chorus



Yoga

Walking Program - summer and winter

Weight Training Classes

Zumba Gold



SPECIAL EVENTS



Annual Luncheon with the Rotary Club
Annual Supper with the Lions Club
Concerts by the Guitar Jam Group
Holiday Dinners/Picnics
Holiday Mocktail Party
McCook's End of Summer Picnic
Regional Event at Langley's Restaurant with The Corvettes
Veterans' Luncheon

ENRICHMENT TRIPS

Costello's Clam Shack, Noank
CT Sun Game, Mohegan Sun
Breakwater Restaurant, Stonington
Thimble Islands Cruise, Branford
Slater Memorial Museum, Norwich
Thimble Islands Cruise, Branford
Toyo Hibachi, Colchester

Tea Kettle, Old Saybrook
E.L.H.S. Culinary Program
Filomena's, Waterford
The Monkey Farm, Old Saybrook
The Hideway, Old Lyme
Grasso Tech Culinary Program
The Steak Loft, Mystic

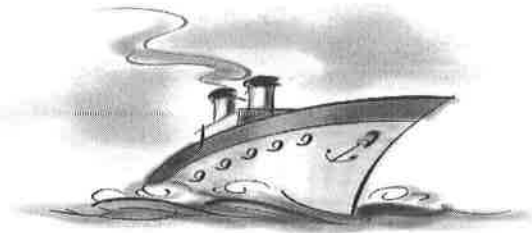


DAY/OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Tour of Providence - Italian Style, Providence, RI
Block Island & Tour of Wind Farm, Old Harbor, RT
Yankees vs Red Sox Game, Yankee Stadium, NY
Raphael Winery, Long Island, NY
"Saturday Night Fever" at Theater by the Sea, Matunuck, RI
Cruise of Webster Lake, Webster, MA
Cranberry Bog Tour at Makepeace Company, East Wareham, MA
Polkabration at Aqua Turf, Plantsville, CT
Tour of Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA
"A Christmas Cactus" at Newport Playhouse, Newport, RI
Rockwell Christmas at the Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Maine/Canada Cruise - Sep 2019
America's Cowboy Country - Sep 2019
Southern Italy - Oct/Nov 2019
Tournament of Roses, CA - Dec/Jan 2020
Quebec Winter Festival - Feb 2020
Iceland - Mar 2020



The Senior Center would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their support during FY19/20:

Advanced Vein Associates – Dr. Peter Hahn
AARP
Rachel Baer
Care One Security
Eastern CT Transportation Consortium
East Lyme High School students
East Lyme Police Benevolent Association
East Lyme Public Library
East Lyme Senior Center Guitar Jam Group
Ellen Fougere - CHOICES Counselor
Nancy Jablonski – Audiology Concierge
Lions Club - Niantic
Niantic Bay Bicycles
Pretty Nails & Spa
Rolf Ochsner family
Rotary Club - Niantic
Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging
Dr. Robert Spitz
Thames Valley Council for Community Action
Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut

Thank You!