

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 14, 2021**

Present: John Whritner  
Marge Caste  
B.B. Smith  
Michel Bekech  
Joan Bengtson  
Joe Palazzo

FILED  
June 14 20 21 AT 11:40 AM/PM  
Kenneth Wilson  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Ilene Harris

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Director

**1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

- a. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Chairman Whritner called the June 14, 2021 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

- b. Delegations. There were no guests.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes May 10, 2021. Mr. Whritner asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the May 10, 2021 Commission on Aging Minutes.

The following correction was noted: On page 1, under 2. Status Report, the second sentence should be corrected as follows: "She added it is a little bit nosier."

**MOTION (1): Mr. Palazzo moved to approve the May 10, 2021 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Caste. Mr. Bekech, Ms. Bengtson and Mr. Palazzo abstained from voting. (3-0-3) Motion carried.**

- d. Correspondence. No new correspondence was received.

**2. STATUS REPORT**

- a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported the vehicles go in for quarterly maintenance in July. Every quarter she submits reports on the 5310 vehicles. She stated we are considering expanding the area we cover for medical transportation within ten miles. Dial-a-Ride will be used for appointments farther away.
- b. Senior Trips.  
1. Enrichment Trips. We can only accommodate 11 individuals on the bus. We are considering bringing these trips back to once a month versus twice a month. Ms. Wilson reported we added another bus to Boston for a Van Gogh exhibit for only East Lyme residents. It sold out and there is a waiting list.

On September 16 a trip is scheduled to the New York Botanical Gardens. There are glass sculptures in the garden. Lunch will be on their own. The cost is \$72. Registration begins on July 1. We are thinking of trying a holiday trip in November and/or December.

2. Day/Overnight Trips. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission we are slowly bringing these trips back.

c. Programs

1. Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson reported we have been slow at bringing the lunch program back with only six people participating. We may have it one day per week. Mr. Whritner felt It is wise to bring this back slowly.

2. Senior Center Programs – Ongoing. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission ping pong is doing well. We have had twenty for bingo on Friday. Chair Yoga, Tia Chi and Yoga are also doing well.

d. Senior Center Programs. Ms. Wilson stated the building is now open. We have food trucks once per month. A waffle truck will be available on July 14. We want to have a picnic at the Brookside Farm Museum. We are also considering a picnic at McCook's. We will have a summer stock theatre at the end of July and in August in the bandshell.

e. Budget. Ms. Wilson reported we have spent approximately \$15,000 to run our programs.

f. Revenue. Ms. Wilson reported as of now we have approximately \$10,500 in revenues and will likely bring in a bit more before the end of June.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Status of the Senior Center and COVID 19. Ms. Wilson stated as of July 1 we are basing capacity limits of classes on the instructors' input and our space. We are asking participants to wear masks if they have not had the vaccine. In July we are hopeful to have most of our programs return. We are determining whether or not our volunteers are ready to come back. Ms. Caste asked if the nurses will return to take blood pressures? Ms. Wilson stated the time allotted for the Blood Pressure Clinic was added to the Foot Clinic as the Blood Pressure Clinics were not getting many participants and the Foot Clinic has a wait list every month. Additionally, there are many other ways to have your blood pressure taken.

b. Potential Expenditures for Federal COVID Money. Ms. Wilson reported she will meet with First Selectman Mark Nickerson tomorrow. She would like a touchless water faucet in the men's room; a place for storage and an accordion barrier on wheels sold by W. B. Mason to alert individuals there is a program in session; tables for luncheons that nestled in a cart and that can be rolled out.

c. Other Pertinent Business. BB Smith asked if we have a 5, 10, and/or 20 Year Plan for where we expect the Senior Center to go? Ms. Wilson replied we do not. BB Smith felt we should have one because the senior population in East Lyme is growing. She also felt a Mission Statement needs to be developed. Ms. Wilson reported when this building was built it was recognized the layout was not great. BB Smith added we now have COSTCO and new

apartments that can bring in revenue to the Town. She asked how are we serving our East Lyme seniors? Ms. Wilson felt if the Senior Center does not evolve it becomes antiquated and young seniors might not be attracted to it. Mr. Whritner added there was a 5-and 10-year Town plan. Committees developed long-range plans. It should be town wide. He would like to work on it. Mr. Bekech, a former Assessor, reported that additional apartment complexes don't necessarily add much revenue for a Town.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

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

**5. EX OFFICIO REPORT**

Ms. Hardy was unable to be present, and there was no report.

**6. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

There were no guests.

**7. BOARD RESPONSE**

There was no response.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (2): Mr. Palazzo moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting at 5:45 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Bengston. (6-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**