

**EAST LYME COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 2022**

Present: John Whritner, Chairman, Joan Bengtson, Marge Caste, Mike Bekech

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Senior Services Coordinator
Rose Ann Hardy, Board of Selectmen Ex-Officio

Absent: Joe Palazzo, Eileen Harris

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Chairman Whritner called the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of February 14, 2022 to order at 5:00 PM.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was observed.

b. Delegations

There were no delegations.

c. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2022

Mr. Whritner called for any corrections, additions or deletions to the Regular Minutes of the Commission of January 11, 2022.

****MOTION (1)**

Ms. Caste moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Commission of January 10, 2022 as presented.

Ms. Bengtson seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

FILED

d. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

Feb 17, 2022 AT 10:05 AM/PM
Brooke Harris ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation -

Ms. Wilson reported that the 5310 grant acquisition is for the same vehicle that they have except for the backdoor which will have two (2) windows so the drivers can see out. The price is \$77,284 and the grant was for \$77,250 – the Town pays the difference. The paperwork will go in this week. With this grant one responsibility is a quarterly reports; Title VI – language assistance. She noted that she has one that was written a few years ago so they will have that plan in place.

Ms. Wilson said that the new Public Safety building is where they are parking the buses. They have an agreement that is working okay but is not really convenient.

b. Senior Trips

(1) Enrichment Trips – Ms. Wilson reported on the following trip:

The Hideaway was not open so they will go to it next month instead. They went to the Hangry Goose instead. The Trip fee is \$5.

(2) Day/Overnight Trips – Ms. Wilson said that they are looking at doing a Newport Playhouse trip on April 25, 2022 with the trip fee being \$105.

Upcoming overnight trips:

Note: For all trips – trip insurance is strongly recommended for an additional \$399pp.

March 27 – April 5, 2022 – 10-day tour of the British Landscapes with optional three nights in Paris. \$2998pp double occupancy to \$3598pp single.

August 21-20, 2022 – Colorado Rockies – 9 day trip, visit four national parks. Transportation & transfers included as well as 11 meals. \$2999pp double occupancy. Registration has begun.

August 26 – September 2, 2022 – Alaskan Cruise – 8 days on Celebrity Solstice. Air Fare included. Prices start at \$2501pp. Registration has begun.

October 6-15, 2022 – Shades of Ireland – 10 days. Includes 13 meals. Visit Dublin, Blarney Castle, Kilkenny, Waterford and more. Transportation and transfers included. Prices start at \$3699pp double occupancy. Registration has begun.

October 2022 – Planning a trip to see David at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. More details to follow.

c. Programs

Senior Nutrition Program – Ms. Wilson reported that as the mask mandate has now been lifted they will resume lunches. She also noted that they had received a very good review from LLHD on their inspection. She noted that they are not cooking at this time.

(1) **Senior Center Programs - Ongoing** – Ms. Wilson provided an annual attendance report on the programs noting that the AARP Tax Aide program continues to be highly successful; and she is looking to be able to resume tech support with the high school kids providing one on one sometime in the future. She would also like to have a beginner music appreciation class and said that bridge needs teachers or it will phase itself out. Bocce and Weight lifting are out. They do not have school access. The flu clinic is out as they can get the flu shots at CVS. The foot clinic, reflexology and Reiki continue to be very popular.

(3) **Senior Center Programs - New** – Ms. Wilson reported that the AARP Tax Aide Program for those 60 and older has returned.

d. Budget – General Fund, Revolving Account

Ms. Wilson reported that the budget is doing okay and is on track. She noted that revenues are very small as they have the revolving account.

e. Revenues – General Fund, Revolving Account

Ms. Wilson reported that the revenues are doing okay and that they are sustaining themselves.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Credit card Processing

Ms. Wilson noted that this started in February and that there is a 2.5% processing fee – anything less than \$80 has an automatic \$2.00 fee. There has not been a lot of usage yet however she anticipates that the large trips will make use of it.

b. Review of FY22/23 Budget

Ms. Wilson said that she would present her budget to the Board of Selectmen this Wednesday evening at 5:30 PM and is also scheduled to go before the Board of Finance on March 15, 2022 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

c. Other Pertinent Business

There was none.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Re-Appointment as Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Ms. Wilson reported that she was reappointed to this position.

b. Requests for ARPA Funds Use

Ms. Wilson said that they were requesting a part time social worker and that they would probably have to have a laptop as they may have to go from house to house as they do not have office space and she is not aware of where there is any.

Ms. Wilson said that additionally she, Mr. Putnam and Ms. Timothy had met to determine the feasibility for this building. Tecton Architects can do the study for \$30,000. They would present this to the ARPA Committee on Thursday. She asked Ms. Hardy how the ARPA funding works –

Ms. Hardy said that it goes to the sub-committee first, then to the Board of Selectmen and the Town Attorney to make sure that the items qualify then the Board of Selectmen make the determinations on where the money will best be spent then it goes to the Board of Finance and to Town Meeting. She noted that Public Health would be a high priority and also said that the social worker should be full time and service the whole Town. It should be a town-wide position. She added that the BOE has also submitted for a social worker position and perhaps something could be shared there.

Ms. Hardy also suggested that the study on space should be combined with the other buildings in Town as for 30 years people have been working in the basement of Town Hall (the building has been there since 1967 with no structural changes) and she thinks that Ms. Wilson's committee needs to come forward together as the town Hall has a whole backyard area for expansion whereas there is difficulty at best for expansion at the Community Center. She suggested that they present a more global position.

Mr. Bekech said that he feels that they should start with what they would need here right now and also look at the bigger picture.

c. Other Pertinent Business

There was none.

5. EX-OFFICIO REPORT

Ms. Hardy reported that they have been busy with the budget presentations and the potential tax income. She said that she is not sure that they have built up enough of a cushion to cover all of this.

Ms. Hardy also noted that in April there would be a public tax auction of some 20 properties in Town for back taxes. There is a posting outside of the Tax Collector's office. She said that she feels that they are beginning to see a much larger age divide and a divide with those who are really struggling and those who may not be struggling as much.

6. BOARD RESPONSE

There was response.

7. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no public discussion.

8. ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION (2)**

Ms. Bengtson moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting of February 14, 2022 at 5:45 PM.

Ms. Caste seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 - 0 - 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary, Pro-tem