


**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2022**

Present: John Whritner
Marge Caste
Michel Bekech
Joan Bengtson

FILED

Absent: Joe Palazzo
Ilene Harris

Apr 13 20 22 AT 12:35 AM/PM

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Director
Rose Ann Hardy, Ex officio

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

Chairman Whritner called the April 11, 2022 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

- b. Delegations. There were no guests.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes March 14, 2022. Mr. Whritner asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the March 14, 2022 Commission on Aging Minutes.

The following correction was noted: There was discussion about the current Senior Center, Library and Parks and Recreation in Ms. Hardy's Ex-officio report.

MOTION (1): Ms. Caste moved to approve the March 14, 2022 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Bengtson . (4-0) Unanimous.

- d. Correspondence. No new correspondence was received.

2. STATUS REPORT

- a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported the quarterly DOT inspection is due by the end of the week.

She stated we are currently gathering documents to reapply for our DIAL-A-RIDE grant. The money received is shared by other towns. The documents are due by May 2.

The Commission received a copy of a safety recall. Ford was contacted and the issue was resolved.

The Annual Touch-a-Truck will be held on May 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will have a bus at McCook's

b. Senior Trips.

1. Enrichment Trips On April 13 the Romeo Club will go to the Monkey Farm in Old Saybrook for lunch. The transportation fee is \$5.

The Romeo Club will meet on April 20 at 11 a.m. at the Jealous Monk in Mystic. The transportation fee is \$5. Non-residents will have a \$1 surcharge. Its next trip will be to Sneakers in Groton.

2. Day Trips. The following Day Trips are planned:

1. May 2 to the Newport Playhouse for the Carol Burnett Show and Cabaret;
2. May 26 for lunch at the Red Lion Inn and a visit to the Norman Rockwell Museum. The trip fee is \$140.
3. June 17 to the Newport Flower Show, with free time for lunch on your own and shopping at the Wharf area. The trip fee is \$82.

We are considering a Providence or Boston walking tour; a trip to New Hampshire and a trip to the Roger Williams Zoo in October.

Overnight trips. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission we are offering a nine-day tour to the Colorado Rockies from August 12 to August 20, 2022. An overnight trip is planned for an Alaskan Cruise from August 26 to September 2 and a 10-day trip to Ireland October 6 to October 15.

Ms. Hardy asked if there are any local residents who do not have the funds for these trips but would like to go? Ms. Wilson stated she has not had anyone approach her about it. Ms. Hardy suggested using the Parahus money if anyone does not have the funds but wishes to go. Ms. Wilson will inform her staff. The costs have increased.

Programs

1. Senior Nutrition Program. There was nothing new on the Senior Nutrition Program.
2. Senior Center Programs Ongoing. Ms. Wilson reported the woman who was doing facials has taken a few months off. Reflexology is being offered again. She may revisit Reiki again. The tax program ended today. When they first came, they had a limited schedule with a large waiting list and they added to their schedule. The AARP Mature Driver Safety classes for January, February and March were cancelled due to COVID restrictions. The first class was held in April and this will be a monthly program.
3. Senior Center Programs Ms. Wilson informed the Commission last week we had the Attorney General speak on elder abuse. The talk went very well. There was a nice article in the newspaper.

There are individuals wishing to have pickle ball courts in town. It would be an expensive program. Ms. Hardy asked if there were pickle ball courts in neighboring towns? Ms. Wilson replied Groton and Old Saybrook have them. Several towns have indoor play. The issue for indoor play is scheduling. The lighting in the main room of the Senior Center is not good enough. Ms. Hardy asked how many people come to play pickle ball?

Ms. Wilson replied on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday there are from eight to twelve individuals who play.

Ms. Wilson reported she was contacted by Ledge Light about having a COVID Clinic. It will be held on May 23 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Those taking advantage of it need to bring their vaccine cards. The vaccine is Moderna and will be walk-in. Ms. Caste added they are giving booster shots at the Crystal Mall on April 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. They have all three vaccines.

- c. Budget-General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson reported we have expended 77% of our budget.
- d. Revenue. We anticipated \$27,000 in trip receipts and brought in \$8500. We anticipated \$56,000 in the Program Budget and received \$48,000.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Review of FY 22/23 Budget. There have been no changes to our fiscal year 22/23 budget. The Annual Town Meeting will be held on April 25 at 7 p.m. at the High School. A Referendum will be held sometime in May.
- b. Request for ARP Funds. Results. A request for a Social Service individual and TRIAD was requested by the subcommittee. To date Ms. Wilson did not have information on the timeline. A 380-page report was prepared by the subcommittee. Mr. Whritner thanked Ms. Wilson and the subcommittee for taking care of this.
- c. Other Pertinent Business. There was no other pertinent business.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Vacancy on the Board. Ms. Wilson asked Commission members to submit suggestions for a replacement for BB Smith. Ms. Bengtson will speak to Cheryl Ferguson. Ms. Hardy felt she would be a good addition to this Commission.
- b. Other Pertinent Business. The Commission reviewed an Incident Report. Ms. Wilson added this individual was doing well.

The Commission reviewed an unidentified email Ms. Wilson received this morning regarding credit card charges. Ms. Hardy stated if you pay taxes with a credit card you receive a charge.

Ms. Wilson reported there are multiple housing issues happening in Town. She received a telephone call from a neighbor of a 70+ year-old gentleman who resides with a 40+ year disabled son. Their landlord is looking to increase their rent from \$900 to \$1900.

Ms. Wilson informed the Commission there is discontent at one of the senior housing communities. The residents have been contacting her about their concerns.

Ms. Wilson had contacted CT Fair Housing organization and Holly Cheeseman for suggestions.

On Friday Ms. Wilson had an older couple who was having their taxes prepared and she noticed their name on the Town's auction list. She asked if they had a plan and they did not. Ms. Wilson spoke to Holly Cheeseman about this matter. Ms. Hardy suggested that they pay a portion of their taxes, and they may be taken off the auction list. Ms. Wilson agreed to speak to the Tax Collector. Mr. Bekech added many individuals do not want to leave their children in debt. Ms. Bengtson added if an individual is a veteran, they can get a discount.

5. EX-OFFICIO REPORT

Ms. Hardy reported the first hurdle on American Rescue Funds has been taken care of. Many organizations have applied. Some items were pulled off the town's Long-Range Plan.

6. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There were no guests.

7. BOARD RESPONSE

There was no response.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (2): Ms. Bengtson moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging April 11, 2022 Regular Meeting at 5:45 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Bekech. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary