

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 9, 2022**

Present: John Whritner  
Marge Caste  
Joe Palazzo  
Ilene Harris  
Michel Bekech

Absent: Joan Bengtson

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

FILED  
May 12 20 22 AT 3:00 AM/PM  
(Signature)  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

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

Chairman Whritner called the May 9, 2022 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

- b. Delegations. There were no guests.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes April 11, 2022. Mr. Whritner asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the April 11, 2022 Commission on Aging Minutes.

Commission member Michael Bekech arrived at 5:03.

**MOTION (1): Mr. Bekech moved to approve the April 11, 2022 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Palazzo. (5-0) Unanimous.**

- d. Correspondence. Cathy Wilson distributed information on funding for senior centers.

**2. STATUS REPORT**

- a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson reported quarterly maintenance on all vehicles has been taken care of.

She reported the new vehicle is expected to be delivered late 2022/early 2023.

She informed the Commission the Dial-a-Ride grant application has been submitted.

- b. Senior Trips.
  - 1. Enrichment Trips. For June, the Fun trip will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> going to Café Flo and the Romeo trip will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> going to The Spot.
  - 2. Day Trips. The trip to the Newport Playhouse took place. The following Day Trips are planned:

1. May 26 luncheon at the Red Lion Inn and a visit to the Norman Rockwell Museum has been cancelled because there was not enough registration.
2. June 17 to the Newport Flower Show, with free time for lunch on you own and shopping at the Wharf area. The trip fee is \$82.

She informed the Commission 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 the Colorado Rockies trip has been cancelled because of not enough registration.

An overnight trip is planned for an Alaskan Cruise from August 26 to September 2 and a 10-day trip to Ireland from October 6 to October 15.

A trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania at the Sight & Sound Theatre to see "David" with dinner in an Amish Home, an Amish Artisans Tour and the Strasburg Railroad.

Trips are being planned for 2023 to Spain's Costa Del Sol, to California and Northern Italy.

c. Programs

1. Senior Nutrition Program. Ms. Wilson stated we were notified salads will be offered on Fridays. However, since we do not serve café meals on Friday, this will not be an option.
2. Senior Center Programs Ongoing. We are working with a music instructor regarding A/V equipment and a better way to teach his classes. Lunch and Learn programs have been successful. We have 15-20 in attendance. She is considering a small charge for this program.
3. Senior Center Programs – New. Ms. Wilson is considering bringing back Celebrate 90s Tea in June.

Shred Day will be held this Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Ms. Wilson reported a petition regarding an outdoor area for Pickleball is being circulated. A Committee has been formed to look for a suitable location. She will ask them to come to this Commission with a presentation.

Mr. Palazzo asked if the Pickleball Committee finds a suitable outdoor location and it rains what will they do? Ms. Wilson felt they would not be able to play. If there is space available indoors, they could use it. During the winter we would give lessons in Pickleball.

- d. Budget-General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson reported the general fund and revolving account are doing well.
- e. Revenue. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission the trip revenues are not doing as well as anticipated.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Review of FY 22/23 Budget. The Annual Town Meeting on the Fiscal Year 2022/23 budget will be held tonight. A Referendum will be held on May 19, 2022.
- b. Request for ARP Funds Results. Ms. Wilson reported we have been informed that the Feasibility Study and position has been approved. When the funds are released, we will put out an RFP.
- c. Vacancy on the Board. Mr. Whritner reported Cheryl Ferguson was spoken to but chose not to pursue it. Everyone was asked to recommend a good candidate.
- d. Other Pertinent Business. There was no discussion of other pertinent old business.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. New Programs Through the State of Connecticut Regarding COVID-19 Relief. There is a new program on water assistance if an individual is behind on their water bills. There is a federally funded relief organization for homeowners who need utilities assistance. There is now a mortgage relief program available for homeowners affected by COVID.
- b. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Wilson reported the Energy Assistance Program's new deadline to apply is June 30. She had an individual speak to her about energy assistance today. Ms. Wilson to date has submitted 250 applications.

There is a new program on water assistance if an individual is behind on their water bills. There is a federally funded relief organization for homeowners who need utilities assistance.

The Commission reviewed an incident report. Ms. Wilson informed them the individual is fine.

### **5. EX-OFFICIO REPORT**

Ms. Hardy reported tonight is the town meeting on the budget.

She stated for the first time she has heard comments about our senior population increasing, and she has been asked if they are getting their fair share. Next year she felt we will be able to take a closer look at that.

She added a subcommittee is looking at developing a plan under state mandate for affordable housing.

### **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 May 9, 2022 Regular Meeting at 6:25 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (5-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**