

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 13, 2022**

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

**FILED**

June 20, 2022 AT 11:26 AM/PM

Brooke Horner ATC  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

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

**1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

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

Chairman Whritner called the June 13, 2022 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

- b. Delegations. Mr. Todd reported he moved to East Lyme 3 ½ years ago and he and his wife have enjoyed playing Pickleball. He added we are now looking for places to play outside. Many East Lyme seniors play Pickleball. He started a petition in March to request that the Parks and Recreation Commission establish a subcommittee to look at outdoor courts in East Lyme. Sue Kumro agreed to Chair the subcommittee. This Commission received copies of a draft report. Mr. Todd personally felt Brookside Farm Museum would be a good place for Pickleball. We looked at Bridebrook Park and everyone agreed the best place would be adjacent to the basketball court. It fits in nicely in that space. Other towns have tennis courts that they converted to Pickleball. The estimated cost is \$50,000 per court. The anticipated cost is estimated at \$200,000. The subcommittee has settled on the recommended location and court design. The next step is an official quote. We need to know how much we need to raise. We would need to coordinate with other activities at Bridebrook. Ms. Wilson asked when you wish to play do you have to reserve the space? Mr. Todd replied we do not. Mr. Whritner added this is informational for this Commission. Mr. Todd will work with Parks & Recreation. On rainy days Mr. Todd added the ELCC facility can be used. Ms. Wilson felt Bridebrook is a good location because it has bathrooms and parking. Mr. Todd stated he would like to revise the report with Parks and Recreation's recommendation and include it in the next fiscal year budget.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes May 9, 2022. Mr. Whritner asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the May 9, 2022 Commission on Aging Minutes.

The following correction was noted: Ms. Caste was not present.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Harris moved to approve the May 9, 2022 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Palazzo. Ms. Caste and Ms. Bengtson abstained from voting**

**(4-0-2) Motion carried.**

- d. Correspondence. Cathy Wilson reported she received information from a resident that the town should be looking for a resident Doctor of Gerontology. Ms. Hardy felt a subcommittee should look into that.

**2. STATUS REPORT**

- a. Transportation. Ms. Wilson informed the Committee our new budget supports more hours for transportation. A third driver is needed. Ms. Wilson is working on a schedule and transportation brochure. Dial-a-Ride will be available on July 1.

- b. Senior Trips.

- 1. Enrichment Trips. On July 13 a Fun Trip is scheduled to go to Rocky's Aqua in Clinton. The trip fee for transportation is \$5 per person. The Romeo Club will now meet every other month. On July 27 they will meet at Costello's in Noank at 11:30 a.m. The trip fee is \$5 per person.

- c. Day Trips. The following Day trips are planned:

- 1. On July 13 for Charles Riverboat Cruise in Boston, Massachusetts
- 2. On July 27 for a Whale Watch High Speed Catamaran in Boston, Massachusetts.
- 3. August 17 to Providence Italian Style

- d. Overnight trips: The following Overnight trips are planned:

- 1. An Alaskan Cruise from August 26 to September 2, 2022 and a 10-day trip to Ireland from October 6 to October 15.
- 2. A trip to Ireland from October 6 to October 15, 2022
- 3. To Lancaster, Pennsylvania at the Sight & Sound Theatre to see "David" on October 26 to October 28, 2022.

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

- e. Programs

- 1. Senior Nutrition Program. There was no discussion on the Senior Nutrition Program.
- 2. Senior Center Programs Ongoing. AARP Mature Driver Safety Class has been difficult to schedule classes because of their COVID concerns. The woman who did facials is moving to Florida and can no longer do facials. Reiki is no longer available. The individual who did it has retired. Music lessons will pause during the summer. Wednesday's Chair Yoga has a new instructor. A new person is needed to lead Brain Aerobics. High School students are willing to do tech support over the summer.
- 3. Senior Center Programs – New. Ms. Wilson reported Make-up for Mature Women is scheduled for July. Summer Theatre at McCook's will be held the last week of July and the first week of August. There will be a regional block party at the Groton Senior Center. Celebrate 90 Tea will be held next Friday. We plan to have a Caregivers' Support Group.

- f. Budget-General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson plans to have a General Fund Report for the July meeting.

- g. Revenue. Ms. Wilson reported revenues are coming in.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Review of FY 22/23 Budget. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission the Budget Referendum passed. The Commission on Aging budget as presented was approved.
- b. Request for ARP. Lisa Timothy, Library Director, will take the lead on the request for the feasibility study using ARP. We will send out an RFP for a Social Worker position in July. We need to determine where this individual will be placed. Ms. Hardy asked is the Olive Chendali Room being used much? Ms. Wilson replied not as much as it used to be. It was felt a Social Worker will need a quiet place to meet with individuals.
- c. Vacancy on the Board. 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. Potential Dedicated Pickleball Courts. See delegations.
- b. Review of Volunteer Background Check Process. Ms. Wilson distributed information on Volunteer Background Checks.
- c. Review of Instructor Fees. Ms. Wilson reported the instructors have not have an increase to their fees in some time. She will obtain information on what other similar towns are paying instructors.
- d. Review of Program Charges. Ms. Wilson will review program charges.
- e. Incident Report. Ms. Wilson distributed an incident report. This individual was ok.
- f. Other Pertinent Business. There was no other pertinent business discussed.

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

Ms. Hardy reported the Selectmen hired a new Tax Collector. Residents will receive their new tax bills by June 30. They will have a month to pay it. To date the town has not received ARP funds.

Ms. Hardy did not feel Brookside Farm Museum was a good location for Pickleball. The area is essential for its programs. As far as using the Capital Improvement Plan. It needs to be planned five years in advance. Fundraising should be done.

Ms. Hardy has had discussion with an individual who has retired and wishes to become more active. Ms. Hardy plans to invite her to the next meeting of this Commission. Ms. Wilson will advertise for a new member in the Courier. Ms. Harris suggested advertising in church bulletins.

Mr. Bekech asked if the town takes inventory on the use of rooms? It might show that we do not need to use the Olive Chendali Room.

### **6. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

There were no guests.

### **7. BOARD RESPONSE**

There was no response.

**8.ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (2): Ms. Bengston moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging June 13, 2022 Regular Meeting at 5:55 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (6-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**