

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

Present: John Whritner  
Marge Caste  
Ilene Harris  
Michel Bekech

Absent: Joe Palazzo  
Joan Bengtson  
Margret Hughes

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Director

FILED

Sept. 16, 2022 AT 1:42 AM/PM  
*Bruce A. ... ATC*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

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

Chairman Whritner called the September 12, 2022 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

- b. Delegations. There were no guests.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes August 15, 2022. Mr. Whritner asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the August 15, 2022 Commission on Aging Minutes.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Harris moved to approve the August 15, 2022 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bekech. (4-0) Unanimous.**

- d. **Correspondence.** Cathy Wilson reported she had no new correspondence.

**2. STATUS REPORT**

- a. **Transportation.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission a new driver with a passenger endorsement is being trained. A background check on him will be needed. Her goal is to have two drivers every day. When there is a trip, she will need three drivers.

Our vehicles are scheduled for a lift inspection. R-1 is scheduled to be the backup vehicle but will remain in service. We put old R-2 out to bid and it has been sold.

Ms. Wilson reported there continues to be thefts of catalytic converters and our busses continue to be at the Public Safety complex.

- b. Senior Trips.  
1. Enrichment Trips. Ms. Wilson reported on September 14 a Lighthouse trip is scheduled.

A trip is planned to Pumpkin Town in East Hampton in October.

The ROMEO trip is scheduled for every other month.

**Day/Overnight Trips.** No new day or overnight trips have been planned. Ms. Wilson will meet with Waterford and the Lymes to discuss new trips. Mr. Bekech suggested the Goodspeed and/or Ivoryton. Ms. Wilson stated the Goodspeed is not acceptable. Ms. Caste reported she attended it, and they required that everyone attending have a mask on for the entire performance. They did not allowed water. Ms. Wilson added she has looked into it in the past and it was expensive.

**c. Programs**

1. **Senior Nutrition Program.** Ms. Wilson had nothing new on the Senior Nutrition Program.
2. **Senior Center Programs Ongoing.** Ms. Wilson reported we recently had registration day for residents for our October session.
3. **Senior Center Programs – New.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission today we began Cookwell with Diabetes. Ledge Light donated \$1,000 towards this program. The program went well.

She stated we have been approached by a company that would like to provide weekly COVID testing. She will determine if there is interest in this.

Ms. Harris asked if it is ok to go beyond the expiration date of the self-testing.

Ms. Wilson reported we are offering craft programs once or twice a month.

- d. **Budget-General Fund, Revolving Account.** Ms. Wilson will discuss the budget next month.
- e. **Revenue.** Ms. Wilson reported revenues are coming in.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Request for ARP.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission the new Parks and Recreation Director started last Thursday. He gave his comments on ARP.

Ms. Wilson spoke to Bill Sheer and he suggested a 60-day window. She added our goal is to send an RFP out next week.

- b. **Review of Program Charges.** Ms. Wilson is reviewing instructor's fees
- c. **Review of Program Charges.** If the instructor's fees increase there will be an increase in participant's fees.
- d. **Other Pertinent Business.** There was no discussion of other pertinent old business.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Review of Attendance for FY21/22.** The Commission reviewed the Annual Attendance Sheet for FY21/22. It was noted attendance has increased.

**b. Review of Revenue and Expenses for FY21/22.** The Commission reviewed the Annual Revenue for the General Fund in FY21/22. The annual revenue to the end of the fiscal year was \$2,384. This revenue came from donations from individual's riding the buses.

**Expenses were reviewed.** Ms. Wilson stated we did not overspend at all. Entertainment, volunteer recognition, overhead and kitchen supplies comes out of this account. Her goal is to charge taxpayers as flat an amount as possible.

**c. Review of two Incident Reports.** The Commission reviewed the two incident reports.

**d. Technology Review of the Senior Center.** Mr. Bekech and Ms. Harris attended a performance at the Senior Center. Ms. Heikkinen had difficulty with the microphone. There were 45 individuals in the room and the sound kept breaking up. It was felt. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission the town is hiring an IT Director. Mr. Bekech suggested checking with the school's audio visual department head. Ms. Wilson added technology is changing so fast. We need something better than we have. Ms. Harris felt possibly the cost could be shared with Parks and Recreation or the Library. Mr. Whritner felt there may be participants at the Senior Center that can help.

**e. Energy Assistance for Winter Heating Season 22/23.** Ms. Wilson reported last year was the first-time residents at AHEPA 5 were eligible to apply. They were supposed to receive a check, and to date it still has not been distributed. TVCCA normally does applications in August, and this year it has been delayed until September. This year they will not look at assets. The amount of money issued this year will be less. Ms. Harris suggested having discussion with Holly Cheeseman.

Mr. Bekech stated he had discussion with a representative of Guy's Oil and was informed of various programs they have available. Ms. Wilson added the Energy Assistance Program was never designed to pay for all their fuel.

**f. Other Pertinent Business.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission we now have a new shed. We shared the cost with Building and Maintenance.

Mr. Bekech felt the new Courier is an improvement.

**5. EX-OFFICIO REPORT** There was no ex officio report.

**6. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

There were no guests.

**7. BOARD RESPONSE**

There was no response.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (2): Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging September 13, 2022 Regular Meeting at 5:45 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (4-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**