

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

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

FILED

Absent: Joe Palazzo  
Margret Hughes

oct 17, 20 22 AT 8:21 AM/PM  
bruce hansen ATC  
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 October 11, 2022 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

- b. Delegations. There were no guests.
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes September 12, 2022. Mr. Whritner asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the September 12, 2022 Commission on Aging Minutes.

**MOTION (1): Mr. Bekech moved to approve the September 12, 2022 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Bengtson. Ms. Bengtson abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.**

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

**2. STATUS REPORT**

- a. **Transportation.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission we are currently sending vehicles for their annual lift inspection to New Haven. The quarterly reports due to DOT for the 2 vehicles purchased through the 5310 grants will be filed by this Friday. Quarterly maintenance will be needed this month. She has contacted the salesman regarding the receipt of the new vehicle. He does not have any updated information about its delivery date. It is still delayed and not expected anytime soon.
- b. Senior Trips.
1. Enrichment Trips. Ms. Wilson reported a 2<sup>nd</sup> trip for the Lighthouse Cruise was scheduled on September 14 as we had a waiting list in August. On October 12, we have a trip going to Pumpkintown in East Hampton. Because it is so popular, a 2nd trip is scheduled for October 26. We are only able to have 11 individuals on the fun trips.

On November 9 a trip is planned to the Lighthouse Inn. Another trip to the Lighthouse Inn will be scheduled if there is not enough space for the November 9 trip.

c. **Day/Overnight Trips.** The trip to the Roger Williams Zoo has been cancelled. A trip is planned to the Newport Playhouse on December 7 and to New York City on your own on December 3. No new day/overnight trips have been planned.

1. **Senior Nutrition Program.** Ms. Wilson had nothing new on the Senior Nutrition Program. There were eight people for lunch today.
2. **Senior Center Programs Ongoing.** Ms. Wilson reported our Lunch and Learn programs are very popular.
3. **Senior Center Programs – New.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission another COVID Clinic will be held on October 17 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Senior Center. No reservation is required.

She reported the Octoberfest will be held on October 14 at noon.

Ms. Wilson is being trained for open enrollment insurance and hope to be ready to offer it by the end of October.

A storyteller will present More Than a Cup of Kindness on October 26 at 1 p.m.

She informed the Commission we will try Pumpkin Carving on October 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and cookie decorating on November 1 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

We received a flyer from High Hopes in Old Lyme to meet and greet with horses and tour the farm. Many individuals are interested in going and a trip has been scheduled for October 21.

c. **Budget-General Fund, Revolving Account.** Ms. Wilson distributed copies of information on the General Fund and Revolving Account for the Commission's review.

d. **Revenue.** Ms. Wilson stated she is hoping to receive \$1500 for the General Fund this year. The majority of this amount will be raised when the annual appeal letter goes out in January for the users of the Center's transportation service.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Request for ARP.** Ms. Wilson will attend a meeting on October 31 with the First Selectman and Finance Director to further discuss the Social Worker position. The Feasibility Study RFP has been sent out.
- b. **Review of Program Charges.** Ms. Wilson reviewed instructor's fees
- c. **Review of Program Charges.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission if the instructors' fees increase there will be an increase in participants' fees. Her goal is to cover the cost

of programs. Ms. Harris asked how do other towns handle this? Ms. Wilson felt our instructors' fees are probably lower.

d. **Other Pertinent Business.** There was no discussion of other pertinent old business.

#### **4. NEW BUSINES**

a. **New Vehicle Monitoring System.** Ms. Wilson reported our GPS system is not user friendly. Verizon has a better system which Public Works uses. These systems were not available in the past. One feature is a forward-facing camera. The other is an internal camera. She did not know if either are needed. She will have discussions with the drivers as to whether it would help them.

b. **Potential Donation to the Parahus Account.** Ms. Wilson reported one of our Yoga instructors passed away and left the Senior Center and Library in her will. It will come through the Community Foundation. The first hearing is October 17. The Community Foundation will manage it.

c. **Budget Discussion for FY23/24.** Ms. Wilson reported the budget process will begins in November and December. She will meet in January with the First Selectman. Mr. Bekech asked if the union contract has been settled? She stated it has.

d. **Other Pertinent Business.** Ms. Wilson reported on average our lunches have six individuals on Tuesday and Thursday. She felt a nice community has developed at these lunches. Ms. Caste added before the pandemic three or four came and now there is an entire new group.

Ms. Wilson stated she has appointments on energy assistance tomorrow and next week. She felt they may only be able to receive one delivery. They are no longer looking at assets only income.

5. **EX-OFFICIO REPORT** Ms. Hardy reported the Historical Society will rebid on renovations on the old Emergency Management Building to convert into a Historical Museum. Three bids are required and they only have two. The project will be delayed. The building needs to be cleaned up. It has cabinets and desks in it.

Regarding the piano at the Senior Center, she has contacted churches in town and none need one. Individuals use keyboards. She plans to contact Stewards. She suggested that if no one that has been contacted needs a piano Public Works be asked to bring the piano to the Memorial Day Lee House Flea Market to sell.

#### **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 October 11, 2022 Regular Meeting at 5:40 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (5-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**