

COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2023

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

Also Present: Cathy Wilson, Director
Rose Ann Hardy, Ex Officio
Candy Heikkinen, Program Coordinator

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT
2023 MAR 16 P 8:10
Candy Heikkinen
TOWN CLERK

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

b. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Chairman Whritner called the March 13, 2023 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

MOTION (1): Mr. Palazzo moved to allow Ex-officio Report at this time in order for Ms. Hardy to attend another meeting. Seconded by Ilene. (7-0) Unanimous.

2. EX-OFFICIO REPORT Ms. Hardy reported the Board of Selectmen will be reviewing the Board of Education and General Government budgets tonight.

Ms. Hardy informed the Commission because of the threat of a storm expected tomorrow Eversource has workers from Florida, Virginia and Pennsylvania coming north.

The Rt. 161 project is expected to begin by the end of this week. This project will take five years. There will be one lane open in each direction from Exit 74 to the Middle School.

The Board of Education budget will be last in the budget series. Budgets will then be forwarded to the Board of Finance.

She suggested that members of this Commission consider going to the Vision Commission Public Hearing because they are proposing a number of changes.

c. Delegations. There were no guests.

d. Approval of Meeting Minutes February 13, 2023. Mr. Whritner asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the February 13, 2023 Commission on Aging Minutes.

The following corrections were noted on page 2, under Enrichment Trips. the Grasso trip was on March 8 and Bill's Seafood in Westbrook will be on March 22.

MOTION (2): Mr. Bekech moved to approve the February 13, 2023 Commission on Aging Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Bengtson. Ms. Harris abstained from voting. (6-0-1) Motion carried.

e. **Correspondence.** Cathy Wilson had no new correspondence.

3. STATUS REPORT

a. **Transportation.** Ms. Wilson reported she requested information on the status of the vehicle awarded through the CT DOT 5310 grant. There was no indication of when the new vehicle will be delivered.

At the Board of Selectmen Meeting Ms. Hardy asked that medical transportation be expanded, because Dial-a-Ride reduced the number of trips it is providing. In order to provide an expanded schedule, Ms. Wilson felt the Senior Center would need to operate three vehicles in order to maintain the current in-town transportation requests.

Our full-time driver is moving out of state this year. She is exploring the idea of adding two part-time positions, rather than a full-time position. Then there would be four drivers, rather than two. We can then expand transportation for medical appointments. She is starting the process and will have information available at the next meeting of this Commission.

Currently, when one vehicle is being repaired, R-3 is utilized. However, this vehicle has over 100,000 miles and really should only be used sparingly.

b. Senior Trips.

1. **Enrichment Trips.** The following fun trip is planned April 12 at 11 a.m. to Olio's in Groton.

The ROMEO CLUB will meet on April 26 at 11 a.m. for a trip fee of \$5.

c. Day/Overnight Trips. The following trips are planned:

1. April 5, 2023 to the Titanic Exhibit in New York City. The trip fee is \$122.

2. April 20, 2023 for a Tea Lunch and guided tour of the Blithewold Mansion and Gardens. The price is \$130.

3. May 23, 2023 a Highline Trip and Edge (Observation Deck). The fee is \$132.

4. June 15 Encore Boston Harbor Casino for \$86.

5. July 6 Theater by the Sea in Matunuck, Rhode Island to see The Carole King Story. Lunch is included for \$155.

6. July 25 Museum of Natural History for an Intergenerational trip. The trip fee for adults is \$112 and \$107 for a child.

7. August 10 to Aqua Turf to see "Shades of Buble" in Plantsville, CT

8. August 16-18, 2023 for three days in Lancaster and Sight & Sound to see "Moses" and two nights and Dutch Apple Dinner Theater to see "Guys and Dolls" with a guided tour of Hershey Town at a cost of \$615 pp for double occupancy

9. August 24 to Spirit of Boston Lunch Cruise, Ma. The trip fee is \$158pp.

10. October 7 to October 15, 2023 to Northern Italy and Its Lakes. The cost is \$3,399 per person for double occupancy.

1. **Senior Nutrition Program.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission Ledge Light performed its quarterly inspection. While here, the LLHD inspector spoke with Ron Bence about installing a hand washing faucet in the dishwashing room. The faucet has been installed. The inspector saw one knife was not clean. It is necessary to rinse dishes before they go into the dishwasher because the heat bakes what is left on the dish.

Ms. Heikkinen and Ms. Bowen attended a ServSafe training and both passed. All staff members are ServSafe trained.

2. **Senior Center Programs Ongoing.** Ms. Wilson reported all is well on ongoing programs.
3. **Senior Center Programs – New.** Ms. Wilson had nothing new to report on new programs.

d. Budget-General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Wilson reported outstanding invoices will be submitted. She may need to transfer some funds between accounts. The General Fund, Revolving Account is in good shape.

e. Revenue. Ms. Wilson reported revenues are doing well.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Request for ARP.** Ms. Wilson informed the Commission we have received six responses to the RFQ. She made them available to Commission members.
- b. **Budget Discussion for Fiscal Year 23/24.** Ms. Wilson stated to date there have been no changes to our budget request. Funds from the Parahus Account will be moved from the CD to a STIF account when the CD becomes due.
- c. **Retirement of Director.** Mr. Whritner and Ms. Harris were on the interviewing panel. Out of 30 candidates five were interviewed. Ms. Hardy and First Selectman Kevin Seery will interview the two remaining candidates.
- d. **Other Pertinent Business.** Ms. Wilson reported we have been removing items in the back room to make room for a social services individual. The area has been painted.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. BOF Budget Review Meeting. Ms. Wilson informed the Commission on March 23, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. the Board of Finance will review the Commission on Aging budget. Mr. Whritner plans to attend.

b. Other Pertinent Business. Ms. Wilson thanked this Commission for its support over the years. Mr. Whritner stated he enjoyed being a member of this Commission. Ms. Wilson has thirty programs available to seniors. He felt Cathy's retirement is a great loss.

Mr. Palazzo stated it has been a pleasure to work with Cathy during his eleven years volunteering in the kitchen.

Ms. Caste reported she moved to East Lyme in 2001 and has been involved at the Senior Center. While a Commission member she has realized all the accomplishments Ms. Wilson has done.

Mr. Bekech informed the Commission Virginia White, former Director, was his neighbor. She informed him that Ms. Wilson was doing a good job.

Ms. Bengtson stated she was impressed with Ms. Wilson when she first met her. She wished her well. Ms. Bengtson added Ms. Wilson made a good impression on everyone.

5.PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There were no guests.

6.BOARD RESPONSE

There was no response.

7.ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (3): Mr. Palazzo moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging March 13, 2023 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting at 5:50 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Bengtson. (7-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary