

COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2023

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2023 MAY 10 P 1:17

Cassandra M. Bell
TOWN CLERK

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

Absent: Joan Bengtson

Also Present: Kristen Caramanica, Director
Rose Ann Hardy, Ex Officio

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

Chairman Whritner called the May 8, 2023 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Mr. Whritner welcomed Ms. Caramancia. He stated we have a strong staff and Commission assuring that all is going well.

b. Delegations. There were no guests.

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

MOTION (1): Mr. Bekech moved to approve the March 13, 2023 Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (6-0) Unanimous

d. Correspondence. Ms. Caramanica had no new correspondence.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. Transportation. Ms. Caramanica reported she has no information on when the new vehicle will be delivered. She plans to write a grant for another bus.

She informed the Commission we have two part-time drivers. An additional driver will be available in the fall.

b. Senior Trips.

1. **Enrichment Trips.** A fun trip is planed on May 10, 2023 to Norwich Golf Course with lunch and shopping afterward. The trip fee is \$5.

Day/Overnight Trips. The following trips are planned:

1. May 23, 2023 to Highline, The Edge (Observation Deck) in Hudson Yards, NYC. The trip fee is \$132 pp.
2. June 15, 2023 to Encore Boston Harbor, Casino, MA. The trip fee is \$86pp.
3. June 22, 2023 to Lake Webster Riverboat Cruise in Webster, MA. The trip fee is \$125pp.
4. May 23, 2023 a Highline Trip and Edge (Observation Deck). The fee is \$132.
5. June 15 Encore Boston Harbor Casino for \$86.
6. July 6 Theater by the Sea in Matunuck, Rhode Island to see The Carole King Story. Lunch is included for \$155.
7. July 25 Museum of Natural History for an Intergenerational trip. The trip fee for adults is \$112 and \$107 for a child.
8. August 10 to Aqua Turf to see "Shades of Buble" in Plantsville, CT The trip fee is \$122pp.
9. August 24 to Spirit of Boston Lunch Cruise, Ma. The trip fee is \$158pp.
10. September 1, 2023 to Ellis Island & Statute of Liberty, NY & NJ for a trip fee of \$116pp.
11. September 26 to Salem & Marblehead, MA for a trip fee of \$135.
12. December 2, 2023 to Radio City, NY trip fee is \$238.

Overnight trips:

1. 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
2. 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.** There was nothing new to report on the Senior Nutrition Program.
2. **Senior Center Programs Ongoing.** Ms. Caramanica reported all is well on ongoing programs.
3. **Senior Center Programs – New.** Ms. Caramanica reported we are always adding new programs.

c. Budget-General Fund, Revolving Account. The Commission reviewed the General Fund, Revolving Account. Ms. Harris asked wouldn't you rather have a full-time driver? Ms. Caramanica replied she would because part-time drivers have other jobs but part-time is still on the table. Ms. Kormos will continue to work with us.

d. Revenue. The Commission reviewed the Revenue Report.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Retirement of Director. Ms. Caramanica reported Ms. Wilson is enjoying her retirement. She will work together with Ms. Caramanica next week. Mr. Whritner stated from his experience it is difficult to follow someone with much experience, but it also means coming into a position where everything is in place.

Mr. Bekech felt the staff should be recognized for their excellent presentation and send off for Ms. Wilson. There was a general consensus of the Commission that this was a good idea. Ms. Caste suggested considering it at the May 23 welcoming breakfast. Ms. Harris and Mr. Bekech volunteered to plan it.

b. BOF Budget Review. Ms. Caramanica reported our budget was reduced by \$5,671 for next year, the different in the Director's salary.

c. Other Pertinent Business. There was no discussion on other pertinent business.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Director. The Commission looks forward to working with Ms. Caramanica.

b. Department of Aging and Disability Services/American Rescue Plan Act. Ms. Caramanica reported the Department of Aging and Disability Services/American Rescue Plan has \$58,000 set aside for senior centers. She suggested the following items: a coffee bar, a new dishwasher and refrigerator, dining room chairs, a projector screen, handicap bathroom doors, and/or new carpeting. The request needs to be completed by June 28, 2024. This grant needs to be used by December 23, 2026. Ms. Hardy suggested considering government surplus. It is free and some of these items may be available. She stated three bids will be needed to use ARPA funds. Mr. Bekech suggested considering the purchase of a new audio system. He felt the one we have needs to be replaced. Ms. Carmanica felt a partition is also needed.

c. Other Pertinent Business. Mr. Whritner will no longer be on this Commission in June. Ms. Caramanica will place on the June Agenda Election of Chairman. Ms. Hardy suggested that a Nominating Committee be formed and a name be submitted. The Board of Selectmen need to approve the individual. This Commission will vote on it at the June meeting.

5. EX OFFICIO REPORT Ms. Hardy reported local personnel helped on the Gold Star bridge accident.

The Charter Revision Commission is considering a staggered four-year term for the Selectman and Board of Selectmen. They are suggesting doing away with the automatic referendum. A one-day ad costs \$3500. She urged Commission members to attend the Public Hearing. The Charter Revision Commission were charged with ten items.

She informed the Commission there is Town Meeting tonight at 7 p.m. at the High School. Residents can comment or ask for additional information on the proposed budget.

The gas station on Main Street will be replaced. It will remain a gas station. Special plastic tanks will be installed. They will also enlarge its deli.

The new building on Main Street will have rental units on the upper level and shops on the lower level. The white building will be removed and an apartment building will be built on Main Street. Café Sol will be relocated.

Rt. 161 will be a four-year project. It will be a major change. There will be multi-lanes at Flanders Four Corners. A turning lane will be located at the High School.

The Memorial Day Parade will be in town at the end of the month.

Ms. Hardy attended a birthday party for a 97-year-old gentleman who was a former Grand Marshal. He is the last living individual who served in the battle of Iwo Jima.

Ms. Hughes stated there are apartments being planned for North Bridebrook and Roxbury roads.

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 8, 2023 Regular Meeting at 6 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Ghersi, Recording Secretary