

COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 12, 2023

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT

2023 JUN 14 A 11: 56

*Cambria Williams*  
TOWN CLERK

Present: Michel Bekech  
Marge Caste  
Margret Hughes  
Ilene Harris

Absent: Joan Bengtson  
Joe Palazzo

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

**1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

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

Acting Chairman Bekech called the June 12, 2023 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

**b. Delegations.** There were no guests.

**MOTION (1): Ms. Harris moved to move Election of Chairman to item c. of this evening's Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Hughes. (4-0) Unanimous**

**c. Election of Officers.** Mr. Bekech asked for nominations for Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2023.

**MOTION (2): Ms. Harris moved to nominate Mr. Bekech as Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2023. Seconded by Ms. Harris.**

Mr. Bekech asked if there were any other nominations for Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2023 and there were none.

**A vote was taken and Mr. Bekech was unanimously elected Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2023.**

Mr. Bekech asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 2023.

**MOTION (3): Ms. Caste moved to nominate Ms. Hughes as Vice Chair of the Commission on Aging for 2023. Seconded by Ms. Harris.**

Mr. Bekech asked if there were any other nominations for Vice Chair of the Commission on Aging for 2023 and there were none.

**A vote was taken and Ms. Hughes was unanimously elected Vice Chair of the Commission on Aging for 2023.**

- d. **Approval of Meeting Minutes May 8, 2023.** Mr. Bekech asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the May 8, 2023 Commission on Aging Minutes.

**MOTION (4): Ms. Caste moved to approve the May 8, 2023 Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Harris. (4-0) Unanimous**

- e. **Correspondence.** Ms. Caramanica had no new correspondence.

## 2. STATUS REPORT

- a. **Transportation.** Ms. Caramanica received news that a traditional grant is not being offered. We will receive one bus. She has no update on when the 5310 bus will be received.

Mr. Bekech asked how each bus is operating and what is the mileage on them? He suggested asking Public Works of their opinion on them.

Ms. Caramanica reported we hired two part time per diem drivers who will work up to twenty hours per week.

Commission members received information on an Incident Report.

**Ms. Hardy arrived.**

### b. Senior Trips.

- 1. **Enrichment Trips.** Ms. Hardy asked if there is a special fund for seniors who would like to go on a trip but are unable to pay for it. Ms. Caramanica replied we do not have one but can create one. Mr. Bekech suggested considering it at the next meeting of this Commission. Ms. Hardy felt the Rotary or the Lions may be willing to contribute to it. Ms. Harris suggested using Parahus funds.

#### **Day/Overnight Trips. The following trips are planned:**

- 1. June 22, 2023 to Lake Webster Riverboat Cruise in Webster, MA. The trip fee is \$125pp
- 2. July 6 Theater by the Sea in Matunuck, Rhode Island to see The Carole King Story. Lunch is included for \$155.
- 3. July 25 Museum of Natural History for an Intergenerational trip. The trip fee for adults is \$112 and \$107 for a child.
- 4. August 10 to Aqua Turf to see "Shades of Buble" in Plantsville, CT The trip fee is \$122pp.
- 5. August 24 to Spirit of Boston Lunch Cruise, MA. The trip fee is \$158pp.
- 6. September 12, 2023 to Ellis Island & Statute of Liberty, NY & NJ for a trip fee of \$116pp.
- 7. September 26 to Salem & Marblehead, MA for a trip fee of \$135.
- 8. October 5 to Vermont
- 9. October 24 for a Cranberry Bog Tour on October 24.
- 10. December 2, 2023 to Radio City, NY trip fee is \$238. This is a multi-generational trip.

### **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.

### **c. Programs**

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.

**d. Budget-General Fund, Revolving Account.** Ms. Caramanica reported there has been no change to the General Fund.

**e. Revenue.** Ms. Caramanica stated revenues are doing well.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Review of FY 23/24.** Ms. Caramanica reported the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget passed.
- b. **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. The following items have been suggested: a coffee bar, a new dishwasher and refrigerator, dining room chairs, a projector screen, handicap bathroom doors, new carpeting and a washer and dryer. The Senior Center has posted a board for community suggestions. The request needs to be completed by June 28, 2024. This grant needs to be used by December 23, 2026. Ms. Hardy 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. Caramanica felt a partition is also needed to reduce noise when multiple programs are running in the meeting room.
- c. **Vacancy on the Board.** Mr. Bekech asked Commission members if they had suggestions for a new member. Ms. Hughes reported Wendy Fiore seems interested in being on this Commission. Ms. Hardy suggested that Ms. Fiore send a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen. She also suggested that she be invited to come to a meeting of this Commission. The Commission could send a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending that she fill its vacancy.
- d. **Other Pertinent Business.** Mr. Whritner has resigned from the Commission on Aging. Mr. Bekech reported he served the town for a long period of time and was steady and logical. The Commission wishes to show its appreciation to him. Ms. Hardy suggested a plant or tree. Ms. Caste stated the housing he lives at has rules about plantings. A gift card or a house plant was suggested.

Ms. Caramanica asked that this Commission consider meeting every other month. Mr. Bekech suggested considering this in the fall because the meeting dates for this year have been submitted to the Town Clerk.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Nominations and Vote for COA.** (See item c.)
- b. **Social Worker Position Posted.** Ms. Caramanica reported the Social Worker position was posted and we received numerous applications. The position is 18 flexible hours a week at \$30 per hour. Ms. Harris and Mr. Bekech agreed to be on the Interviewing Committee. Ms. Caramanica asked commission members to submit questions they would like to have asked. She added Human Resources will be involved.
- c. **Incident Report.** Commission members reviewed the incident report. The repair to the bus will be taken from Building and Maintenance.
- d. **Freezer.** There was no further discussion on the freezer.
- e. **Other Pertinent Business.** Ms. Caramanica is looking for volunteers for the Café. Mr. Bekech suggested that we cover the cost for training a volunteer.

Ms. Caramanica has been working on Renters Rebate within the community and will begin going to senior housing complexes starting on June 22.

The following Special Events have been planned:

Ledge Light Health – Covid Vaccine Clinic, Monday June 12 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Fun Trip, Wednesday June 14, 11 a.m.

Ice Cream Social and Entertainment, Thursday, June 15 at 1 p.m.

Lunch & Learn- Men's Health, Wednesday June 21 at 12:30 p.m.

Make Music Day, Wednesday, June 21 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

16<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate 90+ Tea, Friday, June 23 at 1 p.m.

Scranton Financial Group, Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

ROMEO, Wednesday, June 28 at 10:30 p.m.

New Gardening Club at East Lyme Middle School with Students

#### 5. EX OFFICIO REPORT

Ms. Hardy suggested the following edits to the May 8, 2023 meeting minutes:

On page 3, under New Business item b. the last sentence to be revised as follows: "Ms. Caramanica felt a portable room divider to the meeting room is also needed."

On page 3, under New Business, item c, the third sentence to be revised as follows: "Ms. Hardy suggested that a Nominating Committee be formed and a name be submitted for the vacancy." The next sentence should be deleted.

On page 3 under Ex Officio Report, the fourth paragraph the first and the last sentences to be revised as follows: "The gas station on Main Street will be updated." "Special underground plastic tanks will be installed for gasoline storage and safety."

**MOTION (5): Ms. Harris moved to reconsider the following edits from Ms. Hardy and amending the May 8, 2023 Commission on Aging Minutes. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (4-0) Unanimous.**

Ms. Hardy reported the town is mandated by the state to have handicapped repairs for the Town Hall.

Ms. Caramanica stated the bathroom faucets are difficult to use. They are automatic but the water does not come out very well. Ms. Hardy suggested forwarding a request to Maintenance.

Ms. Hardy reported the Charter Revision Commission will have a Public Hearing on June 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Its Draft report is on-line. The Charter Revision Commission recommends:

1. That the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector positions become appointed positions.
2. That two-year terms be four-year terms.
3. That any vacancies be filled out for the term of the individual it is replacing.
4. Ms. Caste asked if they recommend not having a Referendum. Ms. Hardy replied that is not in the recommendations because very few residents attend the Town Meeting. A resident can submit a petition.

Ms. Hardy swore in Mr. Bekech.

**5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

There were no guests.

**6. BOARD RESPONSE**

There was no response.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (5): Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging June 12, 2023 Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (4-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**