

COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 10, 2023

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT

2023 JUL 12 P 2:39

*Carroll Hill*  
TOWN CLERK

Present: Michel Bekech  
Marge Caste  
Ilene Harris  
Joe Palazzo

Absent: Joan Bengtson  
Margret Hughes

Also Present: Kristen Caramanica, Director  
Wendy Fiore

**1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

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

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

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

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

**MOTION (1): Ms. Harris moved to approve the June 8, 2023 Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Caste. Ms. Fiore abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried**

**d. Correspondence.**

1. A letter of thanks to the Commission, dated June 24, was received from John Whritner.
2. A letter of thanks from Ms. Claire Walsh to the staff, volunteers, and helpers that made Celebration 90+ a success.

**2. STATUS REPORT**

**a. Transportation.** Ms. Caramanica has no update on when the 5310 bus will be received. She informed the Commission that Dial-a-Ride will give 24 one-way rides. The R-3 may be retiring sooner than later.

**b. Senior Trips.**

**1. Enrichment Trips.**

**Day/Overnight Trips.** Ms. Caramanica reported there will be a dance party tomorrow. There will be a play called "Theater Under the Shell" from June 29 to August 3 at 6 p.m. at McCook's bandshell.

1. Theater by the Sea in Matunuck, Rhode Island to see The Carole King Story went well.

2. July 25 Museum of Natural History for an Intergenerational trip. The trip fee for adults is \$112 and \$107 for a child.
3. August 10 to Aqua Turf to see "Shades of Buble" in Plantsville, CT The trip fee is \$122pp.
4. August 24 to Spirit of Boston Lunch Cruise, MA. The trip fee is \$158pp.
5. September 12, 2023 to Ellis Island & Statute of Liberty, NY & NJ for a trip fee of \$116pp.
6. September 26 to Salem & Marblehead, MA for a trip fee of \$135.
7. October 5 for Made in Vermont
8. October 24 for a Cranberry Bog Tour on October 24.
9. 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. Ms. Caramanica needs a volunteer on Tuesday to serve Café meals.
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 we are closing out the General Fund for 22/23.

The Commission reviewed the 2023 Detail Expenditure Year Analysis.

**e. Revenue.** The Commission reviewed the 2022-2023 annual revenues.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Freezer.** The freezer has been repaired.
- b. **Incident Report.** The Commission reviewed the incident report.
- c. **Social Worker Position.** Jennifer Wu began work today.
- d. **Vacancy on the Board.** Ms. Fiore was welcomed as a new member of this Commission.
- e. **Other Pertinent Business.** There was no other pertinent business.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Receptionist Position.** Interviews will be held for a 25-hour receptionist position.

- b. **Review of Attendance FY22-23.** Ms. Caramanica distributed the Annual Attendance Report for FY22-23.
- c. **Review of Revenues/Expenses for FY22-23.** Ms. Caramanica distributed the 2023 Detail Expenditure Year Analysis.

**Commission member Joe Palazzo joined the meeting.**

- d. **Elderly Tax Abatement Program.** Mr. Bekech reported the towns he has worked with and the state have elderly tax abatement programs. There is a renter's rebate and a homeowner's rebate. Out of 169 towns there are 130 different programs through the Assessor's Office. They have income guidelines on all sources of income. He suggested that this Commission send a letter to the Selectmen asking them to look into going forward to adopt higher guidelines.

**MOTION (2):** Mr. Palazzo moved that this Commission send a letter to the Board of Selectmen to request that they consider adopting guidelines for an Elderly Tax Abatement Program. Seconded by Ms. Harris. Ms. Fiore abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

- e. **Special Funds/Scholarships.** Ms. Caramanica will develop a plan for scholarships for a senior who would like to go on a trip but cannot afford to.
- f. **Other Pertinent Business.** Ms. Caramanica informed the Commission that there are seniors who love to bake for the Senior Center but cannot afford the ingredients. Ms. Harris suggested contacting the Lions or Rotary to help with ingredients for baking. Another suggestion she made was to have an event where the proceeds go towards ingredients for baking. Ms. Harris suggested requesting donations of baking supplies in the newsletter. Ms. Caramanica suggested that Ms. Wu send a letter to residents requesting donations of baking supplies. Mr. Bekech suggested contacting Care and Share.

Ms. Caste asked about a replacement of the microphone system at the Senior Center. Ms. Caramanica reported that the staff feels the microphone system is fine.

Ms. Caramanica reported she has seen thus far, 89 applicants at senior housing complexes. TVCCA will come to train for energy assistance.

- 5. **EX OFFICIO REPORT** Ms. Hardy was unable to be present, and there was no report.
- 6. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION** There were no guests.
- 7. **BOARD RESPONSE.** There was no response.

**8.ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (3):** Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging June 10, 2023 Regular Meeting at 5:50 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Caste. Ms. Fiore abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Unanimous.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**