

COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Present: Michel Bekech, Chairman  
Joe Palazzo  
Ilene Harris  
Marge Caste  
Margret Hughes

Also Present: Kristen Caramanica, Director  
Wendy Fiore

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT  
2023 SEP 14 P 2:16  
Cassie M. M...  
TOWN CLERK

**1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

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

Chairman Bekech called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

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

- c. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2023.** Mr. Bekech asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the July 10, 2023 Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION (1):** Ms. Harris moved to approve the July 10, 2023 Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Palazzo. Ms. Hughes abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

- d. **Correspondence.** The Commission reviewed letter dated July 18, 2023 to First Selectman Kevin Seery regarding an enhanced option to the elderly and disabled homeowners tax credit abatement program to East Lyme property taxpayers.

Ms. Caramanica submitted an AARP grant for \$5,000 for “Social Participation” asking for a Tea/Coffee Station.

An email was received from CT DOT regarding a Section 5310 Grant Desk Audit Site Visit policy. A couple of questions asked were about policies. One was on service animals. Ms. Caramanica reported we have a policy on file for folks to view. Policies on passengers traveling with respirators, oxygen, or portable oxygen are allowed to travel with respirators and are allowed to travel with portable oxygen supplies. She added it to her FAQ’s sheet for transportation. The state asked if passengers without a mobility device that wish to use the lift to board the bus are able to and the answer is yes and that was also added to the FAQ’s sheet.

**2. STATUS REPORT**

- a. **Transportation.** Ms. Caramanica reported we have retired our R-3 bus. R-1 went into the dealership for a state inspection and failed. We received it back and it went out of service again, because we need to repair the roof caused by a May accident. As a result,

transportation has been difficult. We asked the town if we could borrow a car and we used it for two days. Buses are safely back on the road.

**b. Senior trips.**

1. Ellis Island & the Statue of Liberty on Tuesday September 12. This trip is sold out.
2. Salem & Marblehead, MA Tuesday September 26. We have a waitlist for this trip.
3. Made in Vermont, Thursday, October 5.
4. Cranberry Bog Tour, Wareham, MA Tuesday, October 24.
5. A Taste of Italian, NYC, Saturday, November 4
6. Newport Playhouse, Thursday, November 16
7. Radio City Christmas Spectacular, Saturday, December 2. This is multi-generational.
8. A stocking stuffer holiday daytrip to Yankee Candle, Thursday, December 14.

**c. Programs**

**(1) Senior Nutrition Program.** There have been no changes to the Senior Nutrition Program. A volunteer is needed for Tuesdays.

**(2) Senior Center Programs -Ongoing.** Ms. Caramanica informed the Commission we had an End of Summer Celebration with a band on Friday, September 8 at 1 p.m. We had 50 in attendance.

Today was registration day and we were very busy. Strength Training is completely filled, and Chair Yoga is almost filled.

**(3) Senior Center Programs – New.** Ms. Caramanica reported we have added a Parkinson's program.

Ms. Yu and Ms. Caramanica have had 202 Renter Rebate applicants. We hope to see more before the October 1 deadline. After that Ms. Yu will work on energy assistance.

Ms. Yu is being CHOICES trained and is hoping to be mentored on the Medicare Choices Program. Ms. Caramanica was trained and reported there are many options under one company.

**d. Budget – General Fund, Revolving Account.** Ms. Caramanica plans to have a General Fund Report in October.

**e. Revenues – General Fund, Revolving Account.** Ms. Caramanica reported there have been no new revenues received.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Receptionist.** Kayla Orowson began working on August 13. She works twenty-five hours per week.

**b. Elder Tax Abatement.** To date no response has been received.

**c. Bingo/Baking Supplies.** Supplies have been received and the baker is happy.

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

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Incident Report.** The Commission reviewed an Incident Report.

b. **Social Worker.** Ms. Yu has been very busy working with Care & Share and other agencies to help seniors in town with assistance.

c. **Other Pertinent Business.** Ms. Caramanica reminded Commission members the October meeting will be on Tuesday October 10.

**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 need for a response.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (2):** Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the September 11, 2023 Commission on Aging Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Hughes. (5-0) Unanimous.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**