

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 10, 2024**

Present: Michael Bekech, Chairman  
Marge Caste  
Margret Hughes  
Ilene Harris  
Joe Palazzo  
Wendy Fiore  
Kevin McGowan

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

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT  
2024 JUN 12 A 10:57  
Courtney M. McGowan  
TOWN CLERK

**1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

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

Chairman Bekech called the June 10, 2024 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

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

- c. **Approval of Meeting Minutes May 13, 2024.** Mr. Bekech asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the May 13, 2024 Commission on Aging Minutes.

**MOTION (1):** Ms. Harris moved to approve the May 13, 2024 Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Palazzo. Mr. Bekech and Ms. Caste abstained from voting. (4-0-2) Motion carried.

- d. **Correspondence.** There was no new correspondence.

**e. STATUS REPORT**

- a. **Transportation.** Ms. Caramanica reported our new bus is expected to arrive by mid to late June. She ordered a new radio for it.

The R-2 bus is due for its quarterly report.

Commission member Wendy Fiore arrived.

- b. **Senior Trips.** Ms. Caramanica reported the trips are doing very well.

**1. Enrichment Trips:**

1. Newport Playhouse-Cemetery Club, Tuesday June 11
2. West Point Campus Tour, Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>
3. Lighthouse Narragansett July 24.
4. Cape Cod Canal Cruise, Onset, MA August 7

5. Aqua Turf Club-Sail ON! The Beach Boys Tribute August 21
6. Brimfield Antique Flea Market September 4
7. Taste of Providence, Providence, RI September 17

**Overnight Trips. The following trips are planned:**

1. Island Hopping-Nantucket & Martha's Vineyard July 19-21m 2024
2. Iceland Magical Northern Lights November 5-November 11, 2024.
3. Croatia and It's Islands, April 22, 2025-May 3, 2025.
4. Peaks of Europe: The Alps to the Dolomites, May 9-May 21, 2025
5. National Parks of America, August 13, 2025- August 24, 2025

Mr. Bekech reported we are receiving a good commission on trips. Ms. Hardy asked if the commission is based on the number of individuals going? She was informed it is as well as the cost of the trip.

**c. Programs:**

1. **Senior Nutrition Program.** Ms. Caramanica reported there have been no changes to the Senior Nutrition Program. Additional help is needed in the kitchen.
2. **Senior Center Programs Ongoing.** Programs are doing well. Today was registration.
3. **Senior Center Programs New.** Ms. Caramanica informed the Commission on June 19 at 1 p.m. our First Selectman, Dan Cunningham, will join us for a cup of coffee. A guitar jam will be held on June 21 at 2 p.m. Our Grief Support Group will be held on June 25 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Day Room. We now are working with three new instructors for Strength Training, Chair Zumba and Tai Chi.

On June 12 at 12:30 p.m. an AARP Safe Driver Class will be held.

On June 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Senior Living and Care Options will be discussed.

On June 27 at 11 a.m. Project Thank You will take place.

A bingo caller from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays is needed. Ms. Harris suggested checking with the Police Cadets and the Leo's.

Mr. Bekech suggested contacting the Ivoryton Playhouse Director about seniors attending a dress rehearsal.

- d. **Budget – General Fund, Revolving Account** Ms. Caramanica reported we are within budget.
- e. **Revenues – General Fund, Revolving Account.** Ms. Caramanica reported we are doing well in our revolving account revenues.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Sale of Bus R-3.** Ms. Caramanica reported we sold the R-3 bus for \$5,120.20 and can now purchase two new freezers. She received three quotes for the freezers.
- b. **AARP Coffee/Tea Station Survey.** Ms. Caramanica reported she has received all positive comments on the Coffee/Tea Station Survey. She averages 170 pots of coffee consumed each month.
- c. **Other Pertinent Business.** Ms. Caste complimented Senior Center staff on putting together the 90+ Tea. Over 100 people attended. Constantine's provided chicken, vegetable, and potato, Flanders Fish Market-Chowder, Castello's, Boardwalk Pizza, and The Plum Tomato donated pizzas. Bridebrook and Crescent Point provided dessert. Those 90+ received a plant purchased at a discounted rate by Smith Acres. Ms. Wilson and her husband volunteered.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Review of Annual Attendance Fiscal Year 23-24.** The grand total for attendance so far for FY23/24 is 22,176. The average daily attendance was 85 per day.
- b. **CT Department of Public Health Food Inspections.** Ms. Caramanica informed the Commission our food inspection went well.
- c. **Review of Parahus Account.** Ms. Caramanica reported there is \$194,565.04 in the Nicholas Parahus fund balance account.
- d. **Review of the Tombari Account.** Ms. Caramanica reported there is a balance of \$114,399.10 in the Tombari Account.
- e. **Other Pertinent Business.** Mr. Bekech informed the Commission the Town is going through financial software restructuring, and he feels it will be an improvement.

He reported legislature has been passed (beginning on October 1, 2024) that totally disabled veterans are exempt from real estate taxes. This is unfunded by the state and will be funded by the town. If the veteran does not have a house their car is not taxed.

Ms. Caramanica reported individuals 60 or older or disabled under 60 may receive Farmers Market Vouchers that can be used to purchase only CT grown fruits, vegetables, or fresh cut herbs and honey.

Commission members reviewed an Incident Report.

Commission members were reminded there will be no Commission on Aging July or August meetings. The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2024 at 5pm.

**5. EX OFFICIO REPORT** Ms. Hardy reported the Board of Selectmen have been working on adjustments to the budget.

#### 6. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There were no guests.

**7. BOARD RESPONSE**

There was no board response.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (2): Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting at 5:40 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Caste. (7-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**