

COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

East Lyme Senior Center Day Room

Monday, June 9, 2025 @ 5:00pm

Present: Mike Bekech, Chairman

Margaret Hughes

Wendy Fiore

Carol Coyle

Ilene Harris

Kevin McGolan

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Absent: Joe Palazzo

Also Present: Kristen Caramanica, Director

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

Chairman Bekech called the June 9, 2025 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

- a. Delegations – No delegations present
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2025 – Mr. Bekech asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the May 14th Commission on Aging Minutes.

MOTION (1): Ms. Coyle moved to approve the May 14th, 2025 Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ilene Harris. (6-0) Unanimous.

- c. Correspondence – No new correspondence to report.

b. STATUS REPORT

- a. Transportation – Ms. Caramanica reported the new bus on the 5310 grant is due for delivery early August.
- b.
- c. The Dial-A-Ride program has run out of funds for transportation until July 1st when funding will determine how many rides will be available to registered clients. However, ECTC is still accepting Milage Reimbursement for registered Clients.
- d. Senior Trips – Ms. Caramanica reported the Fun Trip and ROMEO trips are generating a lot of interest. She also noted Travel Commissions received in May and June:

For Peaks of Europe: The Alps to The Dolomites - \$789.62

For Bermuda Cruise – \$985.26

Mr. Beckech commended Candy Heikkinen for facilitating these Commissions.

Upcoming Enrichment Trips

1. Coastal Queen, Newport Harbor, Thursday, July 10.
2. Twin Lobsters at the Log Cabin, Holyoke, Tuesday, July 22.
3. Boston Museum of Science, Multi-Generational, Saturday, August 9.
4. Carole's Kings at the Aqua Turf, Tuesday, August 19th.

Upcoming Overnight Trips. The following trips are planned:

1. National Parks of America, October 5-L6th, 2025
2. Boothbay Harbor & Portland Harbor, October 6-8,2025
3. Southern Charm Holiday, November 30 to December 6,2025
4. Sunny Portugal - New Year's Eve, December 27,2025-January 6,2026
5. Greece Island Hopping, April L2-22,2026

- e. Programs – It was reported by Ms. Caramanica that the 90's+ Celebration was a success, with 99 guests / 38 over 90. As well as many helpful volunteers to make it run smoothly.

Registration for the new session was this morning. Clients began lining up at 7:10 AM for a 9 AM registration start. Ms Caramanica reported the Summer Session for Programs went very well, some courses were actually full to capacity prior to 10 AM.

- f. Senior Nutrition – Meals-on-Wheels distribution was reported by Ms Caramanica the counts are down, from 781 to 602 over the past year. On site Café has averaged 61 Clients per month.

On May 22, 2025 the ELSC was subject to the 1/4ly Connecticut Department of Public Health Food Establishment Inspection, by Ledge Light Health Dist. Reports were distributed to all Board Members. ELSC received 100% compliance on all aspects of the inspection.

Mr. Beckech commended Jane Bowen for her dedication to oversee the kitchen.

c. OLD BUSINESS

- a. FY Budget 25/26 - It was reported by Ms Caramanica the budget passed. Ms Caramanica also expressed appreciation to Mr Bekech for taking the time to address the Board of Finance with accurate metrics in regard to the Senior Community and pending needs.
- b. Other Pertinent Business – As of May 31st, 2025 the Energy Assistance Program has ended. It will resume in October of this year. We are now processing Rental Rebate applications and the program is in full swing, Ms Caramanica reported.

d. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Annual attendance - July through June attendance last year 1580/mo, so far this year 1900/mo program participants
- b. Transportation Survey - Ms Caramanica reported her survey is completed and all Board members received a copy. It has been determined by the board and Ms. Caramanica that the best time to begin distribution of the survey will be in September, when our client base is less transient.

- e. EX-OFFICIO REPORT – Ms. Hardy was unable to be present and there was no report.

- f. PUBLIC DISCUSSION – None present

- g. BOARD RESPONSE – None necessary

- h. ADJOURNMENT – MOTION (2) – Ilene Harris moved to adjourn the COA regular meeting @ 6:30 PM on 6/9/25. Seconded by Carole Coyle. (6-0) Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted by Jane Bowen, Recording Secretary

Next meeting – Monday, September 8, 2025 @ 5 PM.