

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2025**

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EAST LYME, CT

2025 SEP 10 A 9:54

Carol Coyle
TOWN CLERK

Present: Michael Bekech, Chairman
Carol Coyle
Ilene Harris
Kevin McGowan
Joe Palazzo

Absent: Margret Hughes
Wendy Fiore

Also Present: Kristen Caramanica, Director

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

Chairman Bekech called the September 8, 2025 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

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

- c. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2025.** The following correction was noted: Mr. McGowan's last name was misspelled.

MOTION (1): Ms. Harris moved to approve the June 9, 2025 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Mr. McGowan. Mr. Palazzo abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion Carried.

MOTION (2): Ms. Coyle moved to amend this evenings Agenda to add Special Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Palazzo. (5-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (3): Ms. Coyle moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2025, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Palazzo. (5-0) Unanimous.

- d. **Correspondence.**

1. Note from Martha Singer praising the teacher of Mind Over Matter Workshop.
2. Email from Mary Wardlaw thanking Ms. Heikkinen for her fine work of coordinating many classes available at the Senior Center.
3. Three incident reports were reviewed by the Commission.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. **Transportation.** Ms. Caramanica informed the Commission we received \$3,320 donations for transportation.

Ms. Caramanica told Commission members one of our drivers resigned. She will advertise for a new driver. Mr. Bekech suggested that Human Resources have an exit interview with anyone leaving a position in town.

She stated the new bus has arrived. It has been registered. It is at the Town garage. The drivers are very happy with it.

Mr. Bekech reported he rode with each driver. He stated each of them has wonderful personalities and are well liked. He asked riders what changes to transportation they would like to see and one individual would like more hours.

Ms. Harris asked how long is a bus trip? Ms. Caramanica replied six hours per day. Ms. Coyle added on Tuesdays some seniors come regularly for the café and then go to Stop and Shop. One day they go to Walmart. Mr. Bekech added our staff coordinates the trips very well.

b. Senior Trips. Ms. Caramanica informed the Commission trips are going very well. We received \$985.26 in commission from the Bermuda cruise.

A Taste of Italy luncheon was held on August 20, 2025 with entertainment by Mr. Basile. Forty-eight individuals attended

Dementia and caregiving five-week series has begun. It has 16 registered.

A presentation on Wildlife and Connecticut's Changing Landscape was held on August 22 and had 11 individuals in attendance.

On September 3 Pilgrim Belle Harbor Tour went to Plymouth, MA.

On September 17 there will be a trip to Hancock Shaker Village in the Berkshire Mountains.

On October 15, 2025 Collette will give a presentation on the Scotland and Ireland trip.

On October 17 there will be a trip to Naugy Scenic Train in Thomaston, CT.

On October 30 there will be a trip to Covered Bridges of New Hampshire.

On November 22 a trip will go to the New York Botanical Garden Holiday Train Show in Manhattan, New York.

On December 6 there will be a trip for a Christmas Extravaganza, Reagle Music Theatre Players in Walham, MA

On December 10 a trip will be held to Kenny & Dolly, Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT

The Amity Program presenters from New York received a Kindness Grant and seniors made boxes at the Senior Center.

Ms. Caramanica reported today was registration and staff collected \$6,637.

Parkinson classes called Living with Intent will be held October 2 through December 11. 9 individuals have signed up.

c. Special Project. Mr. Bekech spoke to Wendy and Hugh McKenney. On behalf of Care and Share they wish to meet to work on a joint effort.

4.NEW BUSINESS

a. Annual Report. The Commission reviewed the Annual Report.

b. Dial-a-Ride. Ms. Caramanica reported Dial-a-Ride allows seniors 20 one-way rides.

c.Customer Satisfaction Survey. The Commission reviewed the Customer Satisfaction Survey. Mr. Bekech suggested that an envelope be included with the Senior Center Interest and Satisfaction Survey in case someone may want to mail the survey to the Senior Center.

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 from the Commission.

The next meeting will be held on October 20 at 5 p.m.

8.ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (4): Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging September 8, 2025 Regular Meeting at 6:05 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Coye (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary