

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2025**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT

2025 NOV 14 A 10:57

Carol Williams
TOWN CLERK

Present: Michael Bekech
Margret Hughes
Wendy Fiore
Carol Coyle
Ilene Harris
Kevin McGowan
Joe Palazzo

Also Present: Kristen Caramanica, Director
Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-officio

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

Chairman Bekech called the November 10, 2025 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

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

- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes October 20, 2025.** Mr. Bekech asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the October 20, 2025 Commission on Aging Minutes.

MOTION (1): Ms. Harris moved to approve the October 20, 2025 Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Fiore. Mr. Bekech abstained from voting. (6-0-1) Motion carried.

- d. Correspondence.** Ms. Caramanica received a thank you note from Kate Steel.

2. STATUS REPORT

- a. Transportation.** Ms. Caramanica reported she submitted a disposition to DOT that is required to sell the R-1 bus. We are able to keep the money from the sale.

Ms. Caramanica informed the Commission another part-time driver has been hired.

- b. Senior Trips.**

1. Enrichment Trips

1. November 22 New York Botanical Garden Holiday Train Show, Manhattan, NY
2. December 6 Christmas Extravaganza, Reagle Music Theatre Players, Waltham, MA
3. December 10 Kenny & Dolly, Aqua Turf, Plantsville, CT

Overnight Trips. The following trips are planned:

1. Penn Dutch Christmas, December 3-5, 2025

2. Sunny Portugal featuring New Year's Eve in Maderia, December 27-January 6, 2026
3. Southern Caribbean Cruise, January 26-February 7, 2026 leaving from New Jersey and picked up in New London is full.
4. Greece Island Hopping, April 12-22, 2026
5. Alaska Land & Cruise, June 14-28, 2026
6. Exploring Scotland & Ireland, September 27 – October 9, 2026
7. Southern Charm Holiday, November 30-December 6, 2026

c.Programs: Ms. Caramanica reported Mah Jong lessons are held six weeks on Fridays from November 7 to December 19 for \$30. No class will be held on November 28. Thirteen individuals have signed up.

She informed the Commission on November 12 at 1:30 p.m. we will have a Veterans Day Celebration. There will be a display of flags. Twenty-one individuals have signed up.

On November 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Nancy Souza, will have a card making workshop.

On November 17 at 12:30 we will have an ice cream social and discussion on Medicare.

On November 25 at 12:30 p.m. we will have a sit-down Thanksgiving meal with entertainment by Mike Mauro. Thirty-six people plan to attend thus far. We plan on fifty people.

We plan on fifty people for the Grab and-Go meals on November 26.

On December 16 at 10 a.m. First Selectman Dan Cunningham will be at the Senior Center.

On December 17 we will have a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. in response to the transportation survey.

On December 19 at 1 p.m. we will have a Mocktail Party. A concert will be held from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

3.OLD BUSINESS

a. Special Project Update. Ms. Caramanica reported handicapped bathroom doors have been installed, new chairs will be delivered on Wednesday, and the tables will be received on December 3. We have no date for the rugs. Pictures from the painting group, as well as the drawing group will be hung in the Day Room.

b. Budget Prep for FY 26/27. Ms. Caramanica asked if any commission member would like to see changes or additions to the budget as presented. Mr. Bekech stated we are in good shape. Ms. Caramanica would like to add new programs but more space would be needed. Ms. Hardy stated she will speak to the Masons. They have a nice building but no regular caretaker or custodian. Mr. Bekech suggested asking what the cost would be to use the Masons' building. Ms. Coyle added they have a large hall and kitchen. Ms. Caramanica stated they have many stairs. Ms. Harris suggested a large space in the library.

c.Special Project. Ms. Caramanica reported the hallway has been painted and the divider was delivered. Four of the tables in the Day Room will go into the Olive Chendali Room. The entryway carpets have been ordered.

4.NEW BUSINESS

- a. R-1 Hubcap. A driver noticed the new bus was missing a hubcap. We made a police report. It was believed it merely fell off. The town garage ordered four new hubcaps.
- b. Discussion and Possible Action for Appropriation from Tombari Family Fund. Ms. Caramanica reported every year we receive \$9,153.75 from the Tombari Family Fund. She suggested using some of it to replenish program supplies.

MOTION (2): Ms. Harris moved to use \$4,000 of the Tombari Family Fund to replenish program supplies. Seconded by Ms. Coyle. (7-0) Unanimous.

5.EX OFFICIO REPORT Ms. Hardy reported Vision will reevaluate privately owned properties in East Lyme. There will also be an audit of town buildings. Because there are fewer properties available for sale the property, values are expected to increase.

She added the 250 Committee is coming up with ideas. They will next meet on November 13 at 6 p.m. The theater has been contacted about having a special production.

The Light Parade will not be allowed to have live animals.

The next Commission on Aging Meeting will be held on December 8 at 5 p.m.

6.PUBLIC DISCUSSION. There were no guests.

7.BOARD RESPONSE There was no need for a response.

8.ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (3): Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting at 5:45 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Coyle. (7-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary