

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

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT

2025 DEC 11 A 10:39

Carol Coyle
TOWN CLERK

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

Absent: 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 December 8, 2025 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

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

- c. **Approval of Meeting Minutes November 10, 2025.** Mr. Bekech asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the November 10, 2025 Commission on Aging Minutes.

MOTION (1): Ms. Coyle moved to approve the November 10, 2025 Commission on Aging Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Fiore. (6-0) Unanimous.

- d. **Correspondence.** A Christmas and thank you card for senior bus transportation from Robert and Donna Helmens was received.

2. STATUS REPORT

- a. **Transportation.** Ms. Caramanica reported the R-1 is getting repaired.
Our new bus driver is doing well.

b. Senior Trips.

1. Enrichment Trips

1. December 6 Christmas Extravaganza, Reagle Music Theatre Players, Waltham, MA
2. December 10 Kenny & Dolly, Aqua Turf, Plantsville, CT

Overnight Trips. The following trips are planned:

1. Greece Island Hopping, April 12-22, 2026
2. Alaska Land & Cruise, June 14-28, 2026
3. Exploring Scotland & Ireland, September 27-October 9, 2026

4. Southern Charm Holiday, November 30-December 6, 2026

c.Programs: Winter registration began for residents today. Ms. Caramanica reported 17 individuals signed up for guitar.

The ROMEO CLUB and Fun trip combo will have its Holiday Party at Flanders Fish in East Lyme on Wednesday December 10th at 11:00 a.m. We will have a Holiday Concert on Monday, December 8th from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. On Friday December 19th at 1 p.m. we will have Mingle & Jingle. Mocktails and Hors d'oeuvres will be served with musical entertainment by Tre' Johnson. A Hanukkah Party sponsored by the East Lyme Library will be held on Saturday, December 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Senior Center will have a coffee chat with First Selectman Dan Cunningham on December 16 at 10 a.m.

3.OLD BUSINESS

a. Special Project Update. Ms. Caramanica informed the Commission on December 16 the tables will be delivered. All tables in the Day Room will be on wheels. Installation of the carpets will be completed on December 16.

4.NEW BUSINESS.

a. Annual Attendance Ms. Caramanica distributed an Annual Attendance Report for 2024-2025. She informed the Commission two new volunteers have signed up for Meals-on-Wheels.

b. Budget Prep for FY 26/27. Ms. Caramanica distributed the Commission on Aging Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. This budget has a 3.85% increase because of increases in salaries, supplies and office equipment. There will also be \$150 spent for an employee that has longevity. Mr. Bekech was thankful for the Senior Center staff. Ms. Hardy stated there is an age span of individuals. Some are 90 and we have younger people as well as other groups with different needs. Mr. Bekech stated the biggest problem has always been space.

MOTION (2) **Ms. Harris moved to forward the Commission on Aging Budget in the amount of \$336,814, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Coyle. (6-0) Unanimous.**

5.EX OFFICIO REPORT Ms. Hardy reported there has been much discussion on safety. There are three areas in town with pedestrian traffic, and school zones. The Police Chief is in favor of having speeding cameras.

A Swearing in Ceremony was held on December 1, 2025.

Ms. Hughes does not wish to be reappointed to this Commission. The Commission was asked to inform the Board of Selectmen if they know someone who would be a good member of this Commission. Political balance is needed.

6.PUBLIC DISCUSSION. There were no guests.

7.BOARD RESPONSE There was nothing further to discuss.

Ms. Caramanica informed the Commission that the next meeting of this Commission is January 12, 2026.

She informed the Commission town employees have a half day on December 24 and the Town Hall is closed on Christmas Day.

8.ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (3): Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting at 5:45 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Coyle. (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary