

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2026**

Present: Michael Bekech, Chairman
Ilene Harris
Esther Williams
Wendy Fiore
Carol Coyle

Absent: Joe Palazzo
Kevin McGowan

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

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT
2026 FEB 12 PM 10:49
Carol Coyle
TOWN CLERK

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

Chairman Bekech called the February 9, 2026 Commission on Aging Regular Meeting to order at 5 p.m.

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

c. **Approval of Meeting Minutes January 12, 2026.** Mr. Bekech asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the January 12, 2026 Commission on Aging Minutes.

MOTION (1): Ms. Coyle moved to approve the January 12, 2026 Commission on Aging Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Williams. Ms. Fiore abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

d. **Correspondence.** A thank you note was received from Ms. Hughes.

2. STATUS REPORT

a. **Transportation.** Ms. Caramanica reported the Town Garage was called to help the senior bus drive a gentleman on Romagna Drive to his home.

The bus drivers needed to keep the busses clean. Public Works helped.

We had a bus staff meeting on Thursday.

b. **Senior Trips.** On February 11 we had a Fun Trip to the Steak Loft. On February 10 the ROMEO group went to the Wood N Tap.

c. **Day Trips.** On April 16 a trip is scheduled to Maple Madness & Magic Wings. On April 22 we will go to Bobby Darin & Frank Sinatra Show. On May 14 a trip will go to the Aqua Turf to see the New York Bee Gees and on May 27 a trip is scheduled to go to Stories Beneath the Surface at Quabbin Reserve.

overnight Trips. To Summertime on Cape Cod and Nantucket, August 18-20, On September 27 to October 9 to September Exploring Scotland and Ireland and Southern Charm Holiday November 30 to December 6, 2026.

- c. **Programs:** On February 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. we will have an Open House to see the improvements at the Senior Center.; every Friday senior can have their blood pressure taken from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; massage therapy is held on February 11 and February 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and February 25; a Foot Clinic is held on February 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; a Hearing Clinic is held on March 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Memory in Motion will be held March 11 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Senior Center Customer Interest and Satisfaction Survey.** See attached.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **SRF Account Update.** Ms. Caramanica distributed the Annual Revenue comparing 2025 and 2026. Mr. Bekech reported last year we had a minus balance and this year we had a positive balance. The Revolving Account had \$19,000 and this year approximately \$8,000. Revenue items through December 2025 and this year \$13,600. Our expenses were less this year.
- b. The General Fund balance for this year is \$1,095.
- c. The Parahus Account has a balance of \$124,085.62 & Tombari Account. has \$97,599.60.

- 5. **EX OFFICIO REPORT** Ms. Hardy reported the Board of Selectmen had thirteen hours of deliberations. She added we managed to get improvements for the outside building. She hoped to receive grant money. The Selectmen are hoping to have the outside handicap accessible. We have an increase in population and a demand for services. We need road improvements. The state is allowing larger projects to come to town. It's important to continue transportation for doctors' appointments. We would like to offer more programs but there is not enough space. The Capital Improvement Committee toured this building. It also had members of the Board of Finance. Ms. Hardy felt we need security in our buildings and cameras outside the buildings. We need additional technology. She recommended that some members of this Commission attend budget hearings. Mr. Bekech stated some seniors are unable to walk.

6. PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

There were no guests.

7. BOARD RESPONSE

There was no need for the Commission to respond.

The next meeting of this Commission is on March 9, 2026.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (2): Ms. Williams moved to adjourn the Commission on Aging February 9,

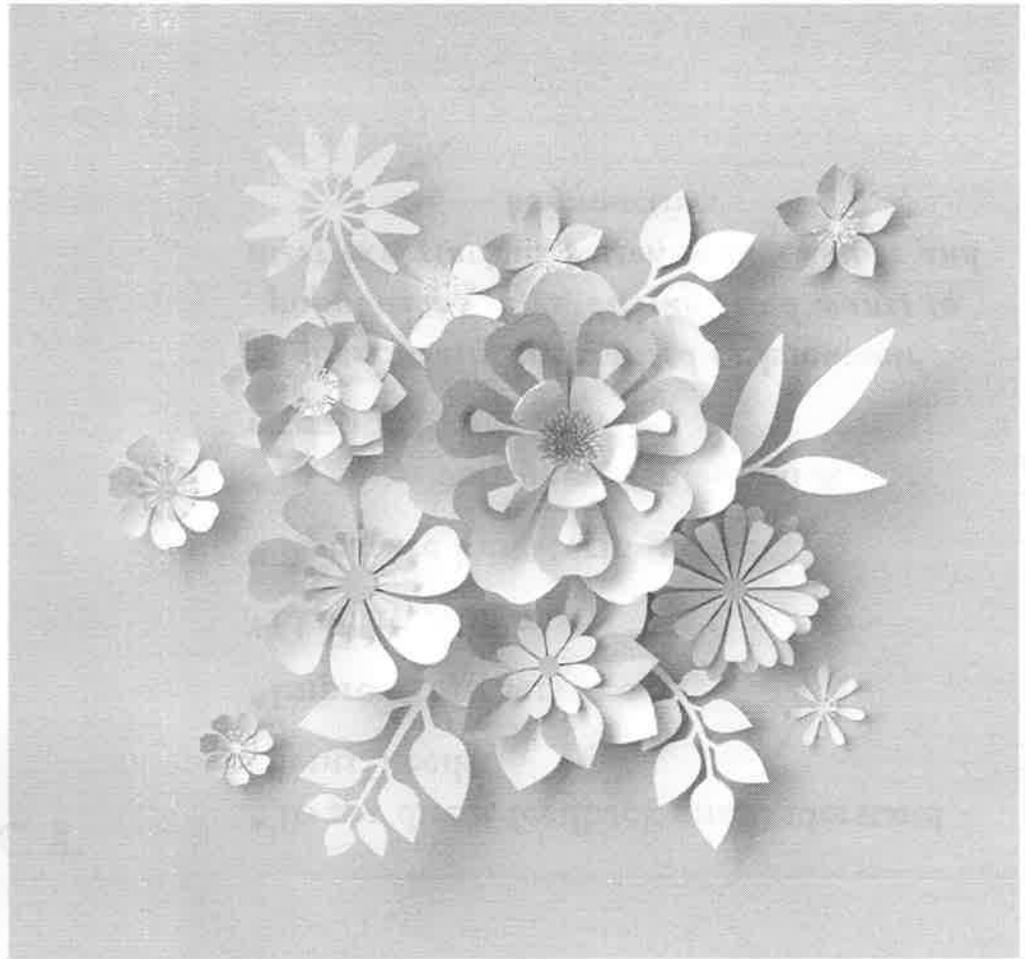
**2026 Regular Meeting at 6:05 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Fiore. (5-0)
Unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,

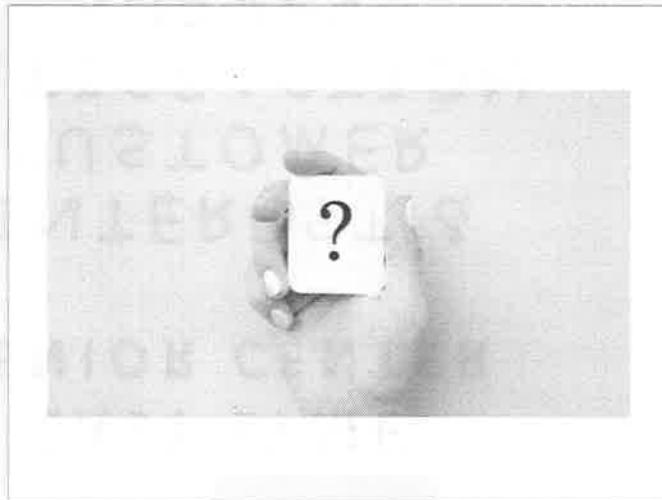
Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

EAST LYME
SENIOR CENTER

INTEREST &
CUSTOMER
SATISFACTION
SURVEY



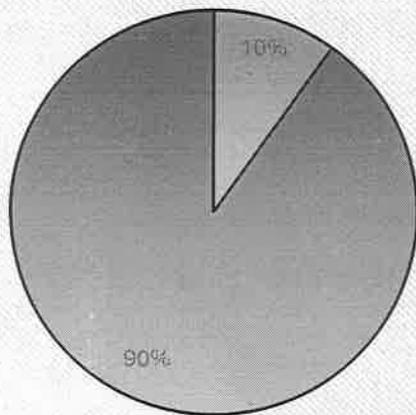
WHY DID WE CONDUCT THIS SURVEY?



- *To get direct feedback and understand clients' needs
- *Improve our services
- *Identify problems
- *To ensure long-term growth
- *To boost customer satisfaction & retention.

Essentially, we wanted to know our populations likes, dislikes, and wants to meet expectations better, resolve issues and be proactive.

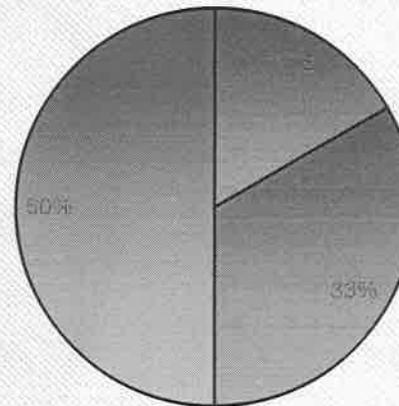
Do you ever go to the Senior Center ?



- No, I've never been there before
- I've been there a few times
- I go to the Senior Center Regularly

*Percentage of people

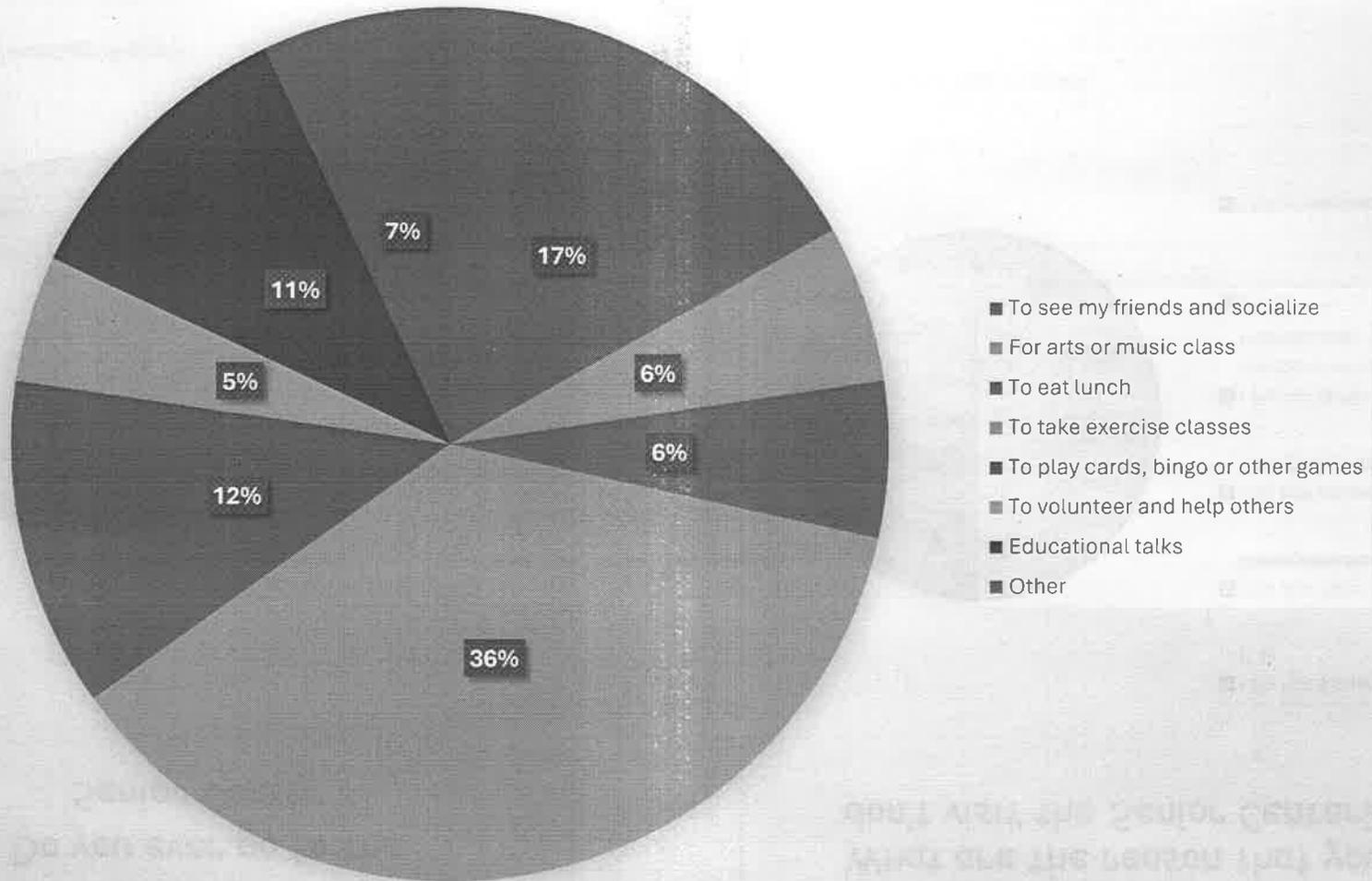
What are the reason that you don't visit the Senior Center?



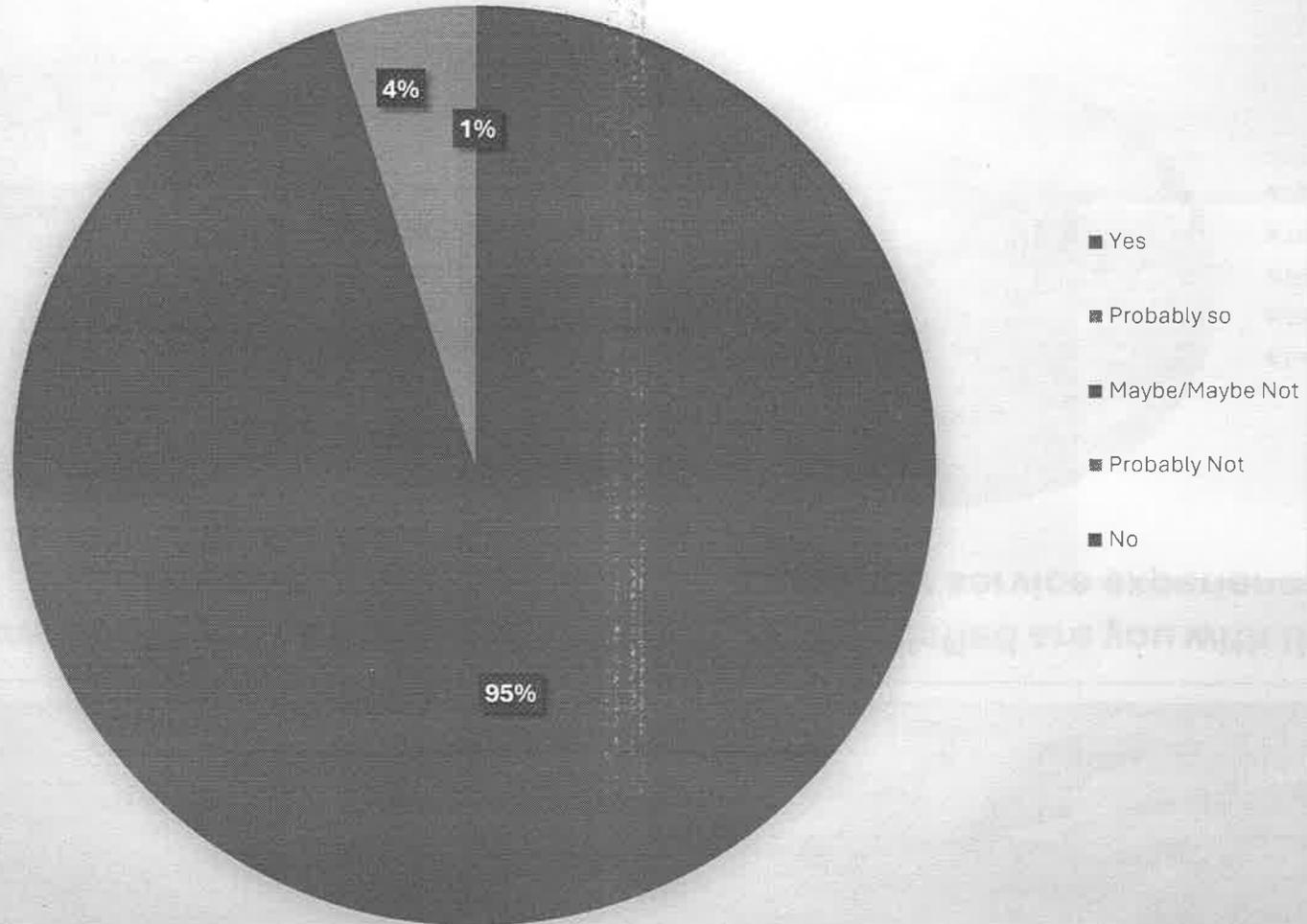
- I do not know where it is
- I do not have transportation
- I do not know anyone who goes there
- I do not think anything would interest me
- I am too busy
- Other reasons

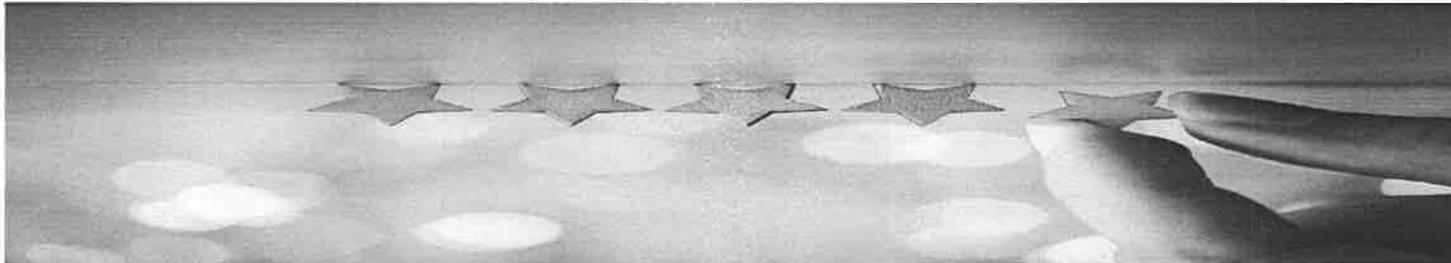
*Percentage of people

What are the reasons you visit the senior center ?

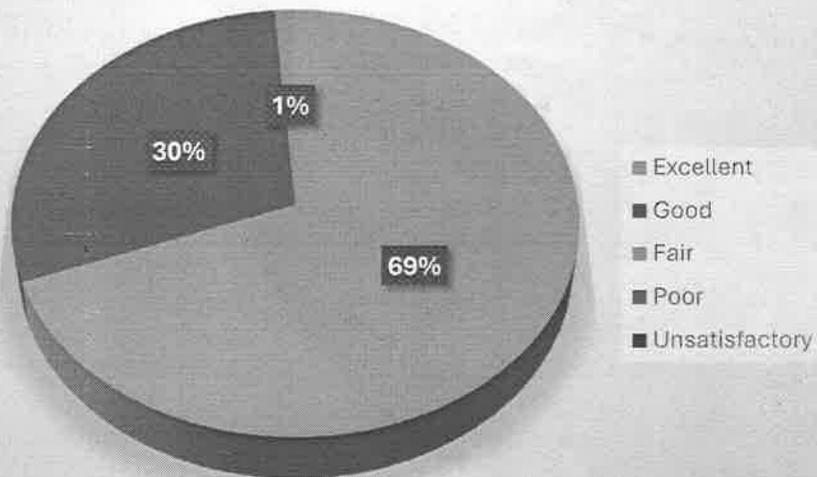


Do you plan on visiting the senior center in the next month ?

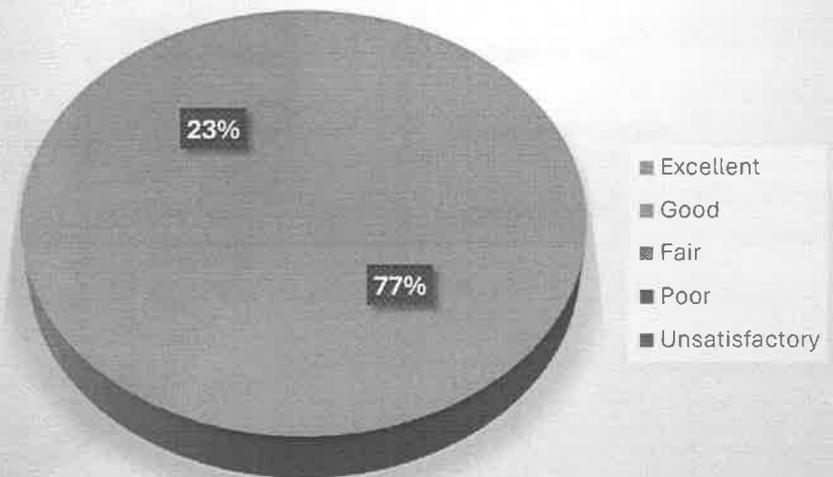




How would you rate the programs?



How satisfied are you with the customer service experience?



Do you have any suggestions to make the East Lyme Senior Center better/comments?

Please bring back the freebie table to the lobby

More educational talks/informational sessions/ lectures

Need larger mirror in the all- purpose room Variety of Instructor

Ensure acknowledgement at the window even holding up a finger to say one minute

Pay for programs online On-line registration is difficult

Microphone , audio equipment for all classes, for hearing impaired.

If classes items for class such weights, and art class

A casual section to hang coats between classes

Exercise room with equipment

More adventures by bus/museums, have a committee to choose places & things to do

Add more classes/space/they fill too quickly

Would like to see the monthly lunch and learns return

Meet at Crescent Beach Stand and BBQ at McCooks

Staff does a wonderful job

Keep doing what you are doing! Excellent variety of classes available

Keep up the good work

