Approved

East Haddam Commission on Aging
COA Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2026 Senior Center

Present: Brad Parker, Heather Hunt, June Guertin, Maureen Gillis, Tom O'Brien, Joe Sina
Absent: Jo Cozean, Barbara Davis, Elaine Flaherty
Guests: none

Meeting called to order at 10:40 AM by J. Sina. Tom will vote on any matters, replacing one of the absent members.

Minutes: The Jan. 22, 2026 minutes were accepted by consensus.

Treasurer's Report: No change in account as reported by B. Parker.

Correspondence: None

Old Business

- Senior Meals: MOW has had some changes up and down, but total number remains consistent at about 18. Brad is advocating with the State to return to daily meal deliveries when the contract comes up for renewal, so there is a consistent wellness check and socialization for the homebound seniors.

Coordinator's Report:

- 24 people have signed up for the Atlantic City trip, which leaves Monday.
- Senior Calendar Items: See calendar in Newsletter. Highlights:
    - AARP Driver Safety Course 4/8. Insurance companies vary in the discount they give to those who complete the course, but it is generally about 5% off the premium.
    - Volunteer Recognition Reception 4/30.
    - Wine tasting 5/1. Last year, about 75 people attended this event and it resulted in gaining several new members, as they saw what the Center offers
- The Senior Club bought 125 new chairs and 12 round tables. The old ones will be used in other Town facilities if in good shape.

New Business:

- Brad and Heather are spear-heading 2 new programs.
    - Businesses are being contacted about whether they offer senior discounts, when and how much. These will be distributed with the Newsletter every other month. Jovita is helping with this project; others are encouraged to assist; contact Heather.
    - Similar to the prior "Wheel Program" where businesses collected donations for the Seniors Meals (the funds went to CRT), we are going to have a program to collect donations for our meal account, which pays for the difference between the cost and the $4 charged on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and incidentals needed (desserts, etc.). Heather is designing "Squares" to be used by businesses for these donations; they will be printed at the Center and we will have a paper cutting session when they are ready.
      The Commission agreed these were 2 excellent programs.
- Joe reported that Tax Prep was on track to prepare about 160 returns. All Federal and State returns have been accepted after efiling thus far. The IRS conducted an unannounced audit, and we received an excellent report. Kudos to Brad, Patti, and Joe especially, as the auditor mentioned she was favorably impressed with the orderliness of the environment, which was key to the success of the audit.

- Tom handed out a document he received from East Hampton that listed suggestions for its Commission on Aging and possible grants available. Everyone should read this and we will discuss it at the next meeting.

First Selectman's Report: None

The next meeting is on May 28, 2026 at 10:30 AM at the Senior Center.

Motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:19 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maureen Gillis, Acting Secretary