APPROVED

East Haddam Commission on Aging
COA Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2026 Senior Center

Present: Brad Parker, June Guertin, Tom O'Brien, Joe Sina, Barbara Davis, Jovita Cozean, Elaine Flaherty, Heather Hunt
Absent: Mary Ellen Klinck, Maureen Gillis
Guests: First Selectman Todd Gelston

Meeting called to order at 10:35 AM by J. Sina.
Minutes: May 28, 2026 minutes were accepted by consensus.

Treasurer's Report: B. Parker reported that there is no change in account.

Correspondence: None

First Selectman's Report:

- 1st Selectman Gelston reported a focus on paving 5 roads by mid-August. Roads are being graded and paved due to poor stormwater drainage and broken pavements.
- Public Safety: Speeding has been a huge concern. Five electronic speed devices are being used: 2 are moveable and 3 are affixed to posts. Written warnings will be given out. Plans to budget for 2 more electronic monitoring moveable signs.
- Police are monitoring speeding around town. In May there were 50 traffic stops. In the month of June there were 60 traffic stops, with 5 infractions issued, 50 written warnings and 4 verbal warnings.
- New Firehouse: There was a public hearing on 5/27, with very low attendance. The estimated cost for a new firehouse is $15M. cost for a new truck is over $1M. There will be a second public presentation for the new firehouse at the BOF meeting on 10/5/26, with a referendum on 10/13/26. There is no immediate source for grant funding.
- Fire Dept & Ambulance: goal to provide the best ambulance service at the least cost. East Haddam has better capabilities than surrounding towns. Fire Dept is on duty weekdays from 6 AM – 6 PM. The Ambulance is on duty nights and weekends.
- Fire Dept. and Ambulance are always looking for volunteers.
- Cell Phone Towers: possibility of Town Street or Hood Road.
- E. H. Village Development: there will be a meeting to discuss roads and businesses to make it a viable area. Parking is a big problem for large events such as concerts.
- Black Birch Golf Course: there are ongoing meetings to discuss feasibility of the town to purchase the property.
- EDC: there are 2 new people on the commission.
- Libraries: there is an exploratory committee at work.
- 250th Celebration went very well; not as many attended as was hoped.

Old Business

- Senior Discount Program: Senior discounts are offered by many local businesses. You have to ask for the discount. Heather is putting together a list of participating businesses for distribution.
- Shagbark held their 'Chick Day'. Donation jar $$ were given for the Senior Meals.
- Meals on Wheels: there are 19 clients receiving meals.
- Senior Meals: The Hometown Market lunches on Tuesday and Thursday are wonderful and most popular with higher attendance than on Monday, Wednesday & Friday when State of CT meals are delivered.

- June Picnic went very well with about 75 seniors attending. The cost of the event was fully covered by Nutmeg Pharmacy. Nutmeg staff were on site to help with the Picnic.
- Bingo: there are about 25 people signed up for today's Bingo game.
- Programs: there are about 36 who come for Tai Chi twice a week; the Mah Jongg group is growing.
- Next month there will be 4 different presentations: 8/10: Chatham Health – Montior your health at home; 8/13: Congressman Joe Courtney will speak about Social Security; 8/18: Mx Hospital and East Haddam Ambulance will talk about Stroke and Prevention; 8/28: Senior Resources will talk about GLP1 weight loss medications, awareness and side effects.
- Sept. 1: Evening trip to a Yard Goats game. Free admission.
- September is National Senior Center Month.
- Sept. 28: Polish-American lunch $10.

The next meeting is on September 24, 2026 at 10:30 AM at the Senior Center.

Motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Barbara Davis, Secretary