

MINUTES OF THE JULY 27, 2026 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Sea Oaks Clubhouse.

There was a Flag salute and a moment of silence for our military and world peace.

Roll call was taken. Board members in attendance were: Ken Miller, Chairman, Lisa Stevens, Linda Cicco, Nancy Cotter, Richard Dutton, John Edmunds, Barbara Jo Crea, Rosemarie Martelli, Donna O'Brien and Barbara Bonalski. Township Committee Liaison and Deputy Mayor Dan Maxwell was also present.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on June 29, 2026 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and carried.

The first speakers were Captain Tom Thornton and Lieutenant John Kelly of the Little Egg Harbor (LEH) Police Department. Capt. Thornton said that the rules for use of ebikes have been posted on the Department's Facebook page, there has been an increase in the use of escooters in addition to ebikes, and his Department's approach with regard to both has emphasized education rather than punishment. Lt. Kelly, who heads the Department's Investigative Division, then spoke about new scams and frauds. He said that no legitimate entity will ask you to make any payment using gift cards and he advised that you tell any telephone fundraiser to send you information in the mail (but do not give them your address if they say they do not have it!). He added that if you receive an unexpected email that appears to be from a friend asking you to click on a box to RSVP to a party invitation you should not do so. An audience member then said that there are posted on YouTube a number of videos under the name rossenreports.com that provide tips on how to stop unwanted phone calls, how to avoid scams, and related matters.

The next speaker was Dan Kwasnik, a Cranberry Creek resident associated with AARP. His topic was artificial intelligence ("AI") which, he said, is involved in computer chess and checker playing, language translation programs, and online research. He pointed out that, while it holds a great deal of promise for the future in a variety of areas (such as using facial recognition technology to assist law enforcement in picking out a known criminal in a crowd at an airport), it may also provide incorrect or biased information if such information has previously been entered online. Therefore, in any online research of any importance, when AI provides an answer, "double source" it by also checking again elsewhere. He then discussed "deepfakes", in which a person's face and voice are incorporated to make it look like they are in a video when in fact they are not. He said that with present technology, if scammers capture even a few words spoken by, say, your grandson and a photo of him, they can create a video which will be shown to you in which he says he is in desperate need for you to give him money. Deepfake videos can sometimes be recognized because they have a tendency to include unnatural and jerky movements by the person whose image has been faked, but a foolproof way of avoiding scams involving such videos is to pick an obscure password and provide it to family members for any of them to use in an emergency so that you will know that it is really one of them communicating with you. Mr. Kwasnik further advised that you do not answer the telephone if you do not recognize the caller's name, do not respond to unsolicited texts, and when speaking with a stranger who may be a scammer, even disguise your voice. Also, do not make quick decisions under pressure but always pause and think things through. On the positive side, AI can certainly be used to replace humans in assembly line jobs such as packing boxes, and it is useful in areas such as writing resumes. It has also been used in movies for years (for example, for a scene in which a human is transformed onscreen into a monster), but it is now feared by some that it will put live actors out of work. AI can also compose tunes and write poetry, and this raises all sorts of issues. On balance, AI has significant pros and cons.

The next speaker was Kathy Tucker, LEH Recreation Director, who provided some information and upcoming dates. A National Night Out will be held on August 4 from 6 to 9 PM at Pinelands High School, including a petting zoo and events for children sponsored by the LEH Police Department. At the LEH Community Center, a Teen Community Cleanup on August 12 will begin at 9 AM and continue until noon; National Senior Citizen

Day will be observed on August 21 from 1 to 3 PM with a free barbecue; and there will be a free movie night on August 29 beginning at 7 PM.

Kim Sakevich of the Tuckerton Chamber of Commerce then reported on a free Summer Fest event sponsored by the Chamber including a classic car show and food trucks, to be held at All Wars Memorial Ball Field in Tuckerton at 11 AM on August 15, and Board member Barbara Jo Crea then once again urged homeowners to avoid home title fraud by signing up for the Ocean County Clerk's Office's free property alert service to receive an email alert if any document is filed with that Office relating to your property.

The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, September 28, 2026 at 10 AM at the Mystic Shores Clubhouse. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Richard Dutton, Acting Secretary, LEH Senior Citizens' Advisory Board*