

GREAT BARRINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING
Claire Teague Senior Center
917 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Phone: (413) 528-1881

MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2022

WELCOME: The meeting of the Great Barrington Council on Aging held at the Claire Teague Senior Center, 917 Main Street, Great Barrington, Massachusetts is called to order at 1:15 pm by Chair David Rutstein.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chair David Rutstein, Vice Chair Pat Kinne, Treasurer Maureen Avery, Secretary Susan Hipwell-Morris, and Members Barbara Bailly, Jeanne Holcomb, Sandra Larkin and Amy Rutstein are present. Member Eileen Gaarn is absent.

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2021. Member Rutstein makes the motion to approve, and Member Bailly seconds the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$31,652.58 as of Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Updates:

Budget: Polly goes over the 2023 budget and the expenses/revenues for the newly formed GBCOA Transportation. The 2023 budget will be voted on at the town meeting.

Grants:

- Angels of St. Anthony Fund - \$500 (annually) is bequeathed in memory of Florence Sasso through the Berkshire Taconic Foundation.
- Mary King Casino Trips - a \$4,000 endowment in memory of Mary King is to be distributed over a 4 year period.
- SIG (Service Incentive Grant) - The outreach grant is \$12,500
- SIG Transportation Grant: \$20,000 - 2022 / \$40,650 - 2023 = \$60,650
- FG (Formula Grant) is pending (based on census) - the FG for 2021 was \$22,300
- A generous donation of \$40,000 was given anonymously and is to be used specifically for transportation. A 10-passenger seat Ford transit van was purchased for \$38,844.25 on August 4, 2021. Due to the shortages of microchips, transportation has had to wait for the van and anticipates its arrival this spring.

COVID Related Cancellations and Postponements:

- Dee's Moves and Grooves exercise class
- Carolyn Callandro's Tap Class
- The Parkinsons' group exercise class

AARP Tax-prep Program: The program will begin this February, but with COVID restrictions in place.

NEW PROGRAMS: Beginning in February . . .

- I-phone instructional session
- A gentle yoga class
- Geer Village will continue their free monthly box lunches followed by a balance class.

NOTE: David Rutstein has resumed his monthly articles in the Grapevine newsletter. Barbara Bailly continues her popular "breakfast for lunch."

CITIZENS SPEAK: None

BOARD SPEAKS: Member Bailly expresses her concerns about the contamination of the water in Housatonic, the delayed notification of the problem to the Housatonic residents, and the impact that it may have on the elderly population. Member Bailly also communicates her concerns about the Great Barrington Housing Authority and their lack of respect toward the elderly residents.

Board members continue the discussion of the need for a generator at the Senior Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Rutstein calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Amy Rutstein makes the motion to adjourn, and Treasurer Maureen Avery seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell-Morris
Secretary