

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

MEETING MINUTES
October 30, 2019

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, Treasurer Maureen Avery, Secretary Susan Hipwell, and Members Barbara Bailly, Jeanne Holcomb and Sandra Larkin are present. Members Eileen Gaarn and Vice Chair Pat Kinne are absent. Polly Salenovitch, Senior Center Director is also present.

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2019. Member Holcomb makes the motion to approve and Member Rutstein seconds the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$25, 551.45

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Updates:

- COA members are introduced to Joan Peters, new administrative assistant, and welcome her aboard. Joan will be working at the Senior Center (Mondays through Fridays) in the afternoons from noon to 4:00 pm and in the mornings from 8:00 am to noon at the Fire Department.
- Two new work-off staff members, Marjie West Keefner and Johanna Brogran, have been hired to help where needed.
- Volunteer Recognition Dinner: Polly has invited volunteers to a "volunteer appreciation dinner" at the *Pleasant and Main* restaurant in Housatonic on November 13th, between 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm.
- Dining for Women: Nov. 20th at 11:45 am - Barbara Watkins, guest speaker, will present "Changing the World, One Woman, One Girl, One Dinner at a time."
- Monument Mountain High School Annual Fall Festival will be held November 18th at the high school.
- Dwelling in the Past: Thursday, Nov. 21 at 10:00 am. A mother and daughter team, Lynn Wood, title abstractor, and Elisabeth L. Wood, genealogical researcher, offer a presentation on fact-based stories of past Berkshire people, places and happenings.
- Climate Conference: Tuesday, November 14th – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Fire House in Great Barrington: Chris Rembold, Assistant Town Manager, will be facilitating this discussion on the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations.
- Polly will be attending Serve-Safe for re-certification for meal prep. This is done every 5 years.
- TRIAD – Sheltering/Code Red – Discussion of what is needed to accommodate seniors at the Senior Center in the event of an emergency.

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- Formula Grant, which is dependent on the number of senior residents, comes from the state and is usually received in June, but was received this year in October. Currently, 1,875 seniors are enrolled. The grant is based on the number of seniors enrolled times \$12.00. These figures may change due to the 2020 census. Our state representative, Smitty Pignatelli, will be present at the Senior Center on the 18th of December to detail the process.
- SHINE: A new SHINE counselor has been hired. Approximately twenty (45 minutes, one-on-one) appointments are scheduled each week with approximately 10 walk-ins per week.

BOARD SPEAKS:

- Member Larkin inquires how seniors will be notified about the upcoming 2020 census.
- Member Holcomb queries in what way, or manner, seniors are counted and enrolled for the census.
- Chair Rutstein emphasizes the need for a generator at the Senior Center as it is designated to be a place of refuge in the event of an emergency.
- Polly underscores the need to bring the rider fee down, especially for those seniors that live close to the Senior Center. Polly requests to put this important concern on the next agenda.

CITIZENS SPEAK:

- Select Board Member, Ed Abrahams also advocates that a generator for the Senior Center is necessary in the event of an emergency and that a commercial kitchen should be considered.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Rutstein calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Rutstein makes the motion to adjourn and Member Bailly seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell Morris

Secretary

COA Minutes Approved – November 20, 2019