

GREAT BARRINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING
Claire Teague Senior Center
917 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Phone: (413) 528-1881
MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 2018

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chair David Rutstein, Vice Chair Pat Kinne, Secretary Susan Hipwell, Barbara Bailly, Eileen Gaarn, Jeanne Holcomb, Amy Rutstein. Also in attendance was Executive Director of the Claire Teague Senior Center, Polly Mann Salenovich,

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2018 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Kinne and seconded by Member Holcomb.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery was away. Director Polly Mann Salenovich reported that there is a new financial accountant and that an anonymous gift of \$3,000.00 was given to the CTSC through Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. This contribution, allocated to "gifts and donations," is to be used at the discretion of the director. A "thank-you" letter was sent to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:


Rear View:

- The re-scheduled St. Patrick's Day Party was mobbed. Yay! Great Barrington Health Care, once again, provided a delicious dinner (corned beef and cabbage). Thanks again, GBHC! Polly commended the kitchen volunteers for their continuous effort and support. Thank you, also, to Andy Kelly and his band for providing some fun and familiar Irish tunes.
- Polly cited that more people are interested in attending the "events" than "hanging-out" in the lobby. "This has been noted across the board."
- The A.G.E. Triad cook-out was attended by approximately 50 people. Berkshire County Sheriff's officers demonstrated how to use protective measures in the event of a physical attack. The exhibition held the audience in rapt attention.
- A full van went to Saratoga Casino and the two future trips planned are all fully booked as well.
- "Complete Streets" public meeting is tonight at 6:00 PM at the senior center to discuss how to move forward in making GB safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. One of the target areas is South Main Street near Brookside and Bostwick Gardens. Polly sent posters to both housing sites to encourage those that live there to attend and be heard.
- The AARP Tax Prep completed their tax service and the numbers for this year are:
 - Returns prepared in GB (149) about 6 fewer than last year's.
 - Average circuit breaker credit for Berkshire County returns that qualified (\$717.)
 - 20% of Berkshire County returns qualified for the circuit breaker credit.
 - Average Berkshire County combined Federal and State refund (\$1048.)
 - Total Berkshire County combined Federal and State refund (\$1,026,997.)

Thanks to the tax team for their service and another successful tax season!

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Look Ahead:

- May 2nd – 12:45 PM: Berkshire Birds Program – Presented by Sharon Siter and Christine Ward. Information on identifying birds, both at your feeder and in fields, will be demonstrated.
- May 10th – 1:30 PM: Mass Bar Elder Law Presentation – Presented by Attorney James R. Loughman
- May 10th – 8:30 AM: “Thursdays’ Breakfast and Bingo”
- May 10th – 11:30 AM: Mother’s Day Lunch – Roast Turkey and Gravy -  Music @ 11:00 AM
- May 15th – Cinco De Mayo Luncheon: Gt. Barrington Healthcare will be offering a free “Latin Lunch.” Sandy & Sandy will be performing.
- May 16th – “Wednesday Lunch” by Chef Avery – Baked ziti, garlic bread and salad. YUM! Thank you Chef!
- May 16th – 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM - Dining for Women: A global circle dedicated to transforming lives and eradicating poverty in the developing world. Please bring a covered dish and financial donation for a wonderful cause. Sign-up sheet in senior center dining room.
- May 18th – noon – 2:00 PM (following 11:30 AM lunch): Senior Prom – Students from the MMRHS Pathway Program will join us for dancing to the MMRHS jazz band. A king and queen will be crowned. Desserts and finger foods will be served. Dress is casual or festive and is free and open to the public (young & old).
- May 28 – Center closed in observance of Memorial Day.
- May 29th – June 1st – Senior Fitness Week: Classes *free* (all week).
- May 31st – 1:00 – Senior Medicare Patrol: Presenting information on how to avoid becoming a victim of health care errors, fraud and abuse.

CITIZENS SPEAK: Citizen Ed Abrahms underscores the importance of the “Complete Streets” meeting being held this evening and most notably for the residents of Brookside and Bostwick.

BOARD SPEAKS:

- Members discuss the Complete Streets meeting taking place this evening at 6:00 PM. Chair Rutstein brings to mind that the onus is not only on the driver to be aware of traffic, but also on the pedestrian. Members say: “Stop, look and wave.”
- Members discuss the May 15th Cinco De Mayo Luncheon and the May 18th Senior Prom and gratefully thank Citizen Karen Smith for the outstanding flyers she created for both these events.
- Members discuss priority of town residents over out-of-town residents when it comes to trips, classes, etc. Citizen Karen Smith weighs in on the subject, stating that as with Parks and Recreation that offer programs such as swimming, etc., that it is, absolutely, within the purview of the taxpayers of Gt. Barrington, in subsidized programs, to ask for extra monies from towns that don’t subsidize their programs.
- Members discuss the viability of Elder Service lunches on Mondays due to low attendance. Chair Rutstein will place this concern on May’s agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Kinne made the motion to adjourn and Member Gaarn seconded. It was unanimously agreed to adjourn at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hipwell Morris
Secretary

Approved May 30, 2018