

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

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 30, 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, Treasurer Maureen Avery, Secretary Susan Hipwell-Morris and Members Barbara Bailly, Jeanne Holcomb, Sandra Larkin Amy Rutstein and Doug Wilber are present. Member Eileen Gaarn is absent.

**MINUTES:** Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2022. Member Rutstein makes the motion to approve, and Member Bailly seconds the motion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$39,283.53.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Updates:

Generator

- Paid for by a grant of \$15,000 through the Great Barrington Police Department
- Has the capacity to keep the senior center fully operational as usual
- The senior center closed November 21 for installation

GB COA transportation

- Polly proposes an increased pay for drivers of GB COA Transportation.
- All drivers work a flexible, part-time schedule
- We welcome a new driver, Michael Harrigan, to round-out our workforce
- Transportation now has five drivers and three trained staff members who can drive and fill-in when necessary
- Micro-transit pilot program - "nothing new to report"

Kitchen upgrades

- DPW superintendent, Joe Aberdale, met with Polly to go over some of the upgrades and will look into grants that tie into emergency shelter programs.
- Expansion of the kitchen area is also under consideration
- B & G Restaurant Supply agent met with Polly to explore the prospects of what appliances would be most suitable for our needs.

#### Commercial kitchen warranted

- On average, 18 meals prepared by Elder Services are served on-site every weekday.
- In-house prepared meals typically attract a larger crowd. Usually about 30 to 40 seniors will attend.
- In the event that the Senior Center is used as a shelter, a commercial kitchen will be optimal.

#### **BOARD SPEAKS:**

Member Doug Wilber shares his knowledge pertaining to kitchen upgrades and generators and offers suggestions directed towards what may be feasible.

Polly briefs the board on the Town Managers' explication of **The First Amendment Auditors** rights under the first amendment and what the citizens' response should be when confronted by this such and such a group.

Chair Rutstein discusses Open Meeting Laws and gives an example of a conflict of interest.

Member Bailey asks Polly what other upgrades she would like to have for the senior center. Essentially, Polly would like to have an awning/canopy or some building structure for protection from inclement weather at the entrance to the senior center.

#### **CITIZENS SPEAK:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Rutstein calls for a motion to adjourn. Treasurer Maureen Avery makes the motion to adjourn and Member Jeanne Holcombs seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 1:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell-Morris  
Secretary

October 26, 2022 Minutes Approved