

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

MEETING MINUTES
October 25, 2023

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 Doug Wilber.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chair Doug Wilber, Treasurer Maureen Avery, Secretary Susan Hipwell-Morris and Members Barbara Bailly, Sandra Larkin, Amy Rutstein and David Rutstein are present. Members Jeanne Holcomb and Donna MacDowell are absent.

MINUTES: Chair Wilber asks for a motion to approve the minutes of August 30, 2023. Member Bailly makes the motion to approve, and Member Rutstein seconds the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$37,165.81.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Updates:

MCOA Conference

- Over 500 people attended the workshops.
- The conference offered Joan the opportunity to meet and speak with other Massachusetts COA directors.
- Joan participated in many exceptional workshops such as the Memory Cafe.
- Joan facilitated a workshop on transportation that was very well received.

On the Horizon

- Memory Cafe
 - Joan will apply for a grant and hopefully hire someone to run it.
- Joan approached Monument Mountain High School to inquire if senior students would be interested in volunteering to help in the kitchen with congregate meals.
- Veterans' lunch will be held to honor our veterans on Thursday, November 9.
 - The Marketplace will donate 2 1/2 trays of lasagna for the occasion. Thank you Marketplace!
- The "seniors' 90 and over celebration" is to be held on Thursday, November 16th.
- A Mass Save associate is scheduled to visit in December to explain the program and its services.

Transportation

- By the donor's request, the Ford Edge is to be used strictly for transporting seniors.
- Through the Inter-Municipal Agreements the Tri-town Connector, in addition to Great Barrington, Egremont and Stockbridge, now services the towns of Monterey, New Marlborough, Sheffield and West Stockbridge.

Improvements

- The center's parking lot has been repaved (both front and back).
- Through the efforts of our volunteers and the DPW, a much needed face lift has been made to our center.

BOARD SPEAKS:

- Due to the "stigma" that is attached to *senior centers*, a name change from the Claire Teague Senior Center to *The Claire Teague Center for Aging Wellness* is under consideration.
- Jane Kelly, the senior center foot nurse, will be retiring at the end of December. Member Bailey suggests that a gift be given to honor Jane's 30 years of service. The council agrees to a \$50.00 contribution.
- As a matter of convenience for the kitchen volunteers who are board members, member Avery suggests that the COA meeting be changed from 1:15 to 1:00. All members agree to the time change. Next month's meeting will begin at 1:00.
- Joan, Doug and Ryan Larkin of Larkin Enterprises, LLC meet to discuss the proposed awning to cover the patio at the front entrance of the center. The council hears the details of the purchase and implementation of the awning and agrees to have it done as soon as possible.
- Joan explains her frustration and issues with the present phone system and is looking forward to a conversation with the company that oversees the system.
- The council agrees to meet in December which is a departure from the past when the COA meeting did not convene during the holiday season.

CITIZENS SPEAK: None

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Wilber calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Barbara Bailly makes the motion to adjourn and Member Amy Rutstein seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 2:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell-Morris
Secretary

Approved - November 27, 2023

