

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

MEETING MINUTES
January 31, 2024

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 1:00 pm by Chair Doug Wilber.

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

MINUTES: Chair Wilber asks for a motion to approve the minutes of December 27, 2023. Treasurer Maureen Avery makes the motion to approve and Member Amy Rutstein seconds the motion. All approve.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$28,614.38

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Updates:

Foot Nurse: The center welcomes Beverly Dunn, RN

Matter of Balance: Begins - Monday, February 4th

AARP Tax Foundation Tax-Aide Program: All slots are filled through the end of March.

"Guest-cooked" lunches: To cover the cost of lunches the price will increase from \$3.00 to \$5.00.

New book club: Begins - Tuesday, February 13th.

OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College): - Joan has purchased a membership that entitles the center to anything that is offered by OLLI that is free to the public.

Poetry Workshop: is In the offing

BOARD SPEAKS: Members explore various types of signage for the center. Members consider the suggestion of modifying the name of the center with a view to attracting younger people.

CITIZENS SPEAK: Jonathan Hankin, Planning Board member, details the master plan schedule for the Claire Teague Senior Center. It is now 10 years out from the genesis of the master plan. The planning board is reaching out to all the boards to get a status check of the goals that were established and the goals that have been achieved.

- Goals established:
 - Consideration about assessing some portion of the cost to the surrounding towns since 25% of the users are from the neighboring towns.
 - Installation of automatic doors for ADA compliance
 - New flooring in front entry
 - Awning over the entryway
 - Leveling and repaving the parking lot
 - Rooftop solar to offset energy uses (working on - "in progress")
 - Improvement of grounds (making the entrance to the center more inviting)
 - Relocation of winter sandpit
 - The Housatonic River Walk to be extended to its natural southern terminus at the center
 - Landscaping and a kiosk installation at the Housatonic River Walk (greenway trail extension) culminating at the center

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Wilber calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Avery makes the motion to adjourn. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 1:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell-Morris
Secretary

Approved February 28, 2024