

## **GREAT BARRINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING**

**Claire Teague Senior Center**

**917 Main Street**

**Great Barrington, MA 01230**

**Phone: (413) 528-1881**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**February 28, 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, Donna MacDowell, Amy Rutstein and David Rutstein are present. Member Sandra Larkin is absent.

**MINUTES:** Chair Wilber asks for a motion to approve the minutes of January 31, 2024. Member Amy Rutstein makes the motion to approve. All approve.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$33,134.38

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Updates:

#### Improvements:

- Grounds cleaning by DPW
- Handicap Parking Signs

Rooster Update: Health Agent, Rebecca Jurczyk, of the GB Board of Health responded to the nuisance complaint by the CTSC Director, Joan Peters regarding the "attacking of seniors" by a neighbor's rooster.

#### New and Fun:

- **In the lobby** - adult coloring books and tv trays were purchased for "something fun to do" while enjoying the company of others
- **Game Board Time** on Fridays from 1:00 - 2:30 pm (drop-in, no charge, just for fun!)

#### On the Horizon:

- The movie for March is **NYAD** - Nyad is a 2023 American biographical sports drama film about swimmer **Diana Nyad's** multiple attempts in the early 2010s to swim the Straits of Florida, swimming from Cuba to Florida. Thursday, March 28 at 12:30 pm. Suggested donation is \$2.00.

- **New Guest Chef**, Mike Richter, a new driver at TriTown Connector, has offered to make Hunter's Stew (a Polish dish called Bigos). Thank you, Mike!
- **New book club** continues with the reading of ***The First Ladies***. A novel about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune. Tuesday, March 26th at 10:00 am to 11:00 am.
- **OLLI** (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) **Poetry Class** will be held at the center on Wednesday, April 17th at 11:30 am. The class is for members only. By offering this class, Joan's intention is to introduce new people to the Claire Teague Senior Center.
- **TRIAD** (**TRIAD** is a nationally-recognized community public safety initiative, developed to reduce the criminal victimization of our senior population and to enhance the delivery of law enforcement services to our seniors). **Upcoming TRIAD Events:**
  - **Topic: How to Access Care (413 CARES) Map of Southern Berkshire Support Systems** - (a community platform that connects Western Massachusetts residents to the services they need) - presented by Deb Phillips - April 17th
  - **Topic: 413 CARES** - A sampling of representatives, from some of the services listed, will have tables set up with handouts and will be available to answer questions. - May 15<sup>th</sup>
- **Grief Support Group** begins March 15th and will continue every 3rd Friday of the month - hosted by Rachel Lively.

#### In Progress:

- **Matter of Balance Class** - great first group! Second class will start in April.
- **AARP Tax Aide Assistance Program** - all slots are booked through the end of the season. New people, seeking assistance, are referred to other **COAs** and **VITA** (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) at the Mason Library.

#### **BOARD SPEAKS:**

Members discuss current transportation issues and propose to address these concerns to Tate Coleman, TriTown Connector Program Director and Chris Rembold, Town Planner and Assistant Town Manager at the next COA meeting. Member Bailly asks for an update on the proposed request for TriTown Connector to offer free rides to veterans.

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

**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 - March 27, 2024