

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

MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 2019

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, Vice Chair Pat Kinne, Treasurer Maureen Avery, Secretary Susan Hipwell, and Members Barbara Bailly, and Jeanne Holcomb are present. Members Eileen Gaarn and Sandra Larkin are absent.

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of June 12, 2019. Member Bailly makes the motion to approve and Member Rutstein seconds the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$25, 947.51.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

September and October Updates:

- Administrative Assistant position becomes available as Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Massena takes the position of Great Barrington Town Clerk, replacing Maria Ryan.
- A recognition luncheon for State Representative, Smitty Pignatelli was held Tuesday, Sept. 10th to thank him for making possible a very generous Legislative Earmark in the amount of \$50,000. Many great amenities have been added. So, again, many thanks Smitty!
- Interviews for the position of Administrative Assistant have been conducted and the position was offered to Joan Peters with the start date to be announced.
- Polly will be attending the MOCA conference October 2nd to the 4th.
- Craft Fair is scheduled for Saturday, October 5th with 22 vendors participating.
- A new meditation training class will be starting Tuesday, September 10th at 2:15 PM. Pilates instructor, Kathi Casey, will be offering 6 sessions at a cost of \$30.00 to participants.
- New Contra Dance Instruction will be given by caller, Michael Kernan, starting September 23rd at 10:00 – 11:30 AM. The cost is \$3.00 per session.
- Chair to Music Exercise class will be given by instructor Dee Foster starting Wednesday, October 2nd at 9:45 – 10:30 PM. Dee brings her special charm and wit to this exciting new class.
- Doors at the Senior Center have been re-keyed.
- Polly will attend Serve Safe (food safety) for re-certification.
- Flu Clinic will be held October 2nd and October 16th from 10:00 – 12:00 PM.
- Thursday Morning Club will hold a Cupcake Bingo event on Friday, October 26th.
- Select Board Meeting will be held here at the Senior Center on Monday, October 21st.

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July and August Updates:

- ADA Picnic Tables were installed
- TRIAD event was again very successful this year as it has been in the past.
- Summer Cookouts
- Live Musical Performances
- Tap Fest
- Monthly Movies - attendance has increased and our new 62" TV makes viewing especially nice.
- Completed our Farmer's Market Coupons
- Students from Middle School dug a new garden plot.
- Drum Circle

Interviews were conducted for the position of Administrative Assistant and a person was hired for a 19-hour work week with the possibility of making it full time by conjoining with another town department.

Formula Grant which comes from the state is usually received in June. However, it was just received yesterday. We expect that it will be the same as last year, \$12.00 per Senior. We anticipate that the number of seniors may change next year due to the 2020 Census. Presently, the grant is based on 1,875 seniors. Please see flyers about the upcoming census. There will be more to come on this topic.

October Meeting Topics to discuss will include budget requests, increase in building and repair line item and increase in program funding. Because many outside organizations use this building, it stands to reason that it is exposed to wear and tear and therefor, overtime, things need to be repaired or replaced.

BOARD SPEAKS: Members applaud Polly's judicious and scrupulous spending of the Legislative Earmark appropriation which has thusly added many awesome amenities to the Senior Center. Future expenditures such as ADA compliant vestibule and new door between director's and admin's office are discussed.

As part of the Outreach Program, Barbara Bailly has organized a Bingo and Pizza party for Flag Rock residents of Housatonic. Fourteen tenants attended and due to its success, future parties are planned for October and November.

Also discussed is the logistics of a "Repair Café" for seniors. *A Repair Café is a meeting in which people repair household electrical and mechanical devices, computers, bicycles, clothing, etc. They are organized by and for local residents. Repair Cafés are held at a fixed location where tools are available and where they can fix their broken goods with the help of volunteers. Its objectives are to reduce waste, to maintain repair skills, and to strengthen social cohesion.*

Chair Rutstein brings to the discussion the NOW prevalence of cannabis in our society and the lack of understanding about it that many of us have. Chair Rutstein suggests that the Senior Center invites a knowledgeable person, perhaps from Theory Wellness, to help broaden our awareness of the subject.

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CITIZENS SPEAK: Select Board Member, Ed Abrahams mentions that he participated in a volunteer “fix it” program as a high school student and suggests the term “Household Repairs for Seniors” for a volunteer group. Select Board Member, Ed Abrahams also comments that he will bring this idea to the Board of Selectmen but notes that if repairs are made “in home,” liability issues are a concern.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Rutstein calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Bailly makes the motion to adjourn and Member Holcomb seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell Morris

Secretary

Approved – October 30, 2019