

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

MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 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, Treasurer Maureen Avery, Secretary Susan Hipwell, and Members Barbara Bailly, Jeanne Holcomb, Pat Kinne and Sandra Larkin are present. Member Gaarn is absent. Polly Salenovitch, Senior Center Director is present.

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of October 30, 2019. Member Rutstein makes the motion to approve and Member Holcomb seconds the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$24,374.43

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Updates:

- Representative Smitty Pignatelli, along with representatives from the Census Bureau, will be at the Senior Center on Friday, Dec. 13th between the hours of 10:00 am and 12:00 pm to explain the importance of getting an accurate count of all seniors residing in Great Barrington. The funding that the Senior Center receives is based on this calculation. Currently we are using numbers from the 2010 Census which totals 1,875.
- Triple AAA will be at the Center on Wednesday, December 18th at 11:30 am to familiarize seniors about the requirements and restrictions of the new "Real ID License."
- Polly invites all those who are interested to attend the monthly TRIAD mtg. which is held at the Senior Center at 10:00 am the last Tuesday of the month. The topic to be considered this month will be "emergency sheltering." Events will be planned with this goal in mind.
- Holiday Events for the month of December:
 - Rockin' Robin Holiday Sing-along: Tuesday, Dec. 3rd (11:15 am – 12:00 pm)
 - Holiday Tapaganza Variety Show: Saturday, Dec. 7th (11:00 am – 1:00 pm)
 - Earth Angels/Covered Dish: Sunday, Dec. 15th (11:00 am – 2:00 pm)
 - Holiday music by John Root: Thursday, Dec. 19th – 11:15 (sponsored by the GB Cultural Council)
 - Holiday Luncheon: Thursday, Dec. 19th – 11:30 am.
- Transportation: Looking ahead to the future and the increase of senior housing in Great Barrington, Polly voices concerns about accessibility and there-by "affordable" transportation to the Center. Polly explores possible options and suggests the idea of complimenting/enhancing our present transportation source (SBETC) with a volunteer driver program. Polly would like to establish a committee to further research this project and start the wheels turning "no pun intended." Polly approached SBETC with the request for a group rate and was told they would

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discuss it with Berkshire Housing's Coordinator. The last she heard is they were going to offer a lower rate of either \$1.50 or \$2.00 round trip on certain days. Polly is awaiting more details.

- Comparable Transportation Fees to Senior Centers in Berkshire County:
 - Adams - \$1.00 one way
 - Dalton - \$1.50 one way
 - Great Barrington - \$3.50 one way - (some riders get discounted fees)
 - North Adams - \$1.00 one way
 - Sheffield - \$4.00 round trip - Private vehicles are used.
 - Williamstown – No fee is charged as it is considered a municipal service.
- Fees double for round trips
- Building Use: Polly indicates that the CTSC is close to maximum capacity and that she will be requesting more funding this new fiscal year to shore up the everyday wear and tear on the building.

BOARD SPEAKS:

- Chair Rutstein cites The Mason Library and the Fire House as underused buildings that are available to the public for meetings. Chair indicates that there are 32 town boards in Great Barrington. Member Bailly queries Polly about what ever happened to the plans for the front entrance vestibule. Polly responds that it was not able to be completed in the time established under the Earmark provision but can be added to the Capital Improvement Plan in the future. Member Kinne inquires what the work schedule is for the janitorial service. Polly answers that the allocation is scheduled for 2 hours per day.

CITIZENS SPEAK:

- Select Board Member, Ed Abrahams recommends that a generator for the Senior Center is necessary in the event of an emergency and that a commercial kitchen should be considered.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Rutstein calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Kinne makes the motion to adjourn and Member Rutstein seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell Morris

Secretary

Approved January 29, 2020