

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

MEETING MINUTES
January 29, 2020

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, Sandra Larkin, and Amy Rutstein are present. Vice Chair Pat Kinne and Member Eileen Gaarn are absent.

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2019. Member Bailly makes the motion to approve and Member Rutstein seconds the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$28,085.93. An anonymous donation in the amount of \$3,000 was gifted to the senior center through the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Updates:

- Finance budget meetings begin. COA is level funded other than a request for a \$900.00 increase for SBETC.
- AARP Tax season begins. 175 seniors filed taxes last year "free of charge." This week is fully booked serving 14 appointments per day.
- SHINE – is very busy due to the increase in eligibility of seniors who meet the criteria to qualify for total coverage of Part B premiums.
- Outreach grant: A two-year regional grant has been given by the state to the Claire Teague Senior Center in the amount of \$23, 600. Eleven thousand dollars of this grant must be spent by June 30, 2020. Polly has made an agreement with SBETC to subsidize transportation rider fees for special events and Tuesday bingos. This makes transportation to the senior center available to those who cannot afford it.
- Polly would like to offer some low-cost trips with the very generous \$3,000.00 donation given anonymously through the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Polly welcomes board members to give their input on how this gift may be used. Polly sends a letter of thanks to the attention of Maeve O'Dea of BTFC.
- Legal Aid Clinic facilitated by legal advisor, Eva Schotts, and subsidized by the senior center, will be available weekly free of charge to low-income seniors.
- Marketing: Advertising in the form of a logo and brochures to be worked-up.
- Outreach Coordinator, Barbara Bailly has planned a Valentine's Day "Bingo and Lunch" for Saturday, February 15th at 11:30 and a "Leap Year Brunch" for Saturday, February 29th at 10:30. Both events are free of charge.

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

BOARD SPEAKS:

- Chair Rutstein explains the mission of the COA: The Claire Teague Senior Center serves the needs of the elderly population of Great Barrington by providing resources such as: recreational, educational, social and nutritional, entitlement assistance and transportation through the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation (SBETC).
- Chair Rutstein explains the relationship between the COA and the director:
 1. The relationship of the Council on Aging board to the director is “primary” to fulfilling its mission. The relationship should be viewed as a partnership supporting each other with mutual commitment and respect and with a common vision and shared goals for the organization’s future.
 2. COAs are primarily advisory (not governance) boards. COAs’ partner in helping set/review policy with the director. The director manages all aspects of daily operations. Board members advise, and staff implements, but do not involve themselves in the day-to-day functions of the center.
 3. When board members serve as program volunteers, they are serving under the supervision of the director which is an entirely separate role from that of COA member.

CITIZENS SPEAK:

- Select Board Member, Ed Abrahams brings attention to the board that the By-Laws, although voted upon and established, have not been updated to reflect that the current board is no longer a 15- member board, but rather a nine-member board.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Rutstein calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Amy Rutstein makes the motion to adjourn and Member Sandra Larkin seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell Morris

Secretary

Approved September 23, 2020