

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

MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 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, Vice Chair Pat Kinne, Treasurer Maureen Avery, Secretary Susan Hipwell Morris, and Members Barbara Bailly, Jeanne Holcomb, and Amy Rutstein are present. Members Sandra Larkin and Eileen Gaarn are absent.

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of January 29, 2020. Member Rutstein makes the motion to approve and Member Bailly seconds the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$27,124.80 as of Aug. 21, 2020.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Updates:

- Since the closing of the Senior Center on March 18, 2020, the center has distributed over 1,000 Elder Services' "grab and go meals."
- Shine counseling is available by phone.
- Tax prep, blood pressure clinic, foot nurse and computer access are available by appointment only.
- Programs that are held outdoors include the "News and Views" discussion group, Dee Foster's chair exercise class, Carolyn Calandro's tap dance class and monthly music on the lawn.
- Shopping, friendly visits, phone calls and deliveries for pharmacy's miscellaneous items have been made.
- Weekly conference calls for covid-19 updates, MCOA zoom meeting and brainstorming with local COA's.

New:

- SBETC has ended their service permanently as of Sept. 30th. The Town of Great Barrington, along with staff, are working diligently to provide van service by October 1st. The final transportation program may not be complete by the first of October, but we anticipate matched services with more flexibility as the program grows. We thank SBETC for their many years serving the seniors of Great Barrington.
- Opening-up the Senior Center: to be continued after recommendations from the Board of Health.

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BOARD OF HEALTH:

Chair Rutstein introduces Board of Health Agent, Rebecca Jurczyk and Health Inspector, Ned Saviski.

Health Agent Jurczyk defines what protocols must be in place in-order to resume activities and reopen the Senior Center. Although complicated, public buildings can reopen under certain guidelines which are primarily subject to capacity limits. Each event or activity falls under different guidelines. Ms. Jurczyk recommends a soft opening to begin with.

- Senior Center dining room and congregate meals: Capacity limits fall under the restaurant guidelines – no more than 10 people per table from the same household. Senior diners outside of the same household should maintain a space of 6 feet apart. Tables should meet capacity requirements to the allowable square footage. Tables should be sanitized.
- Contact Tracing: Contact definition is anyone within 6 feet of infected person for 15 minutes or more. In some scenarios the definition is a little fluid, in other words, it could be 5 minutes here or there throughout an hour cumulative to 15 minutes. A list must be rendered to assist public health nurse in tracing possible contamination.
- Governing Boards: The overarching rule of thumb is to wear masks and maintain the distance of 6 feet apart.
- Indoor mask guidelines: People with a medical disability do not have to wear a mask. Face shields are allowable as supplement to those that cannot wear a mask. However, holding fast to wearing a mask as stringently as possible is ideal.
- How to manage front entrance: Someone should be in attendance to monitor the front entrance for acceptable capacity and mask wearing. Temperatures should be taken, and a sanitizing station should be set up.
- Exercise equipment and fitness classes: Capacity limit is based on the square footage. People should be 14 ft. apart, 6 ft. apart when wearing masks and sanitizing protocols need to be in place.
- Symptoms of Covid-19: Common cold, fever over 100.3, loss of taste, loss of smell

BOARD SPEAKS: Chair Rutstein brings to light that the numbers of deaths due to Covid-19 has reached the 200,000 mark in less than a year and by comparison 400,000 people died in all the wars fought in the last century.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell Morris

Secretary