

**COUNCIL ON AGING (COA)
CLAIRE TEAGUE SENIOR CENTER
917 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230**

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 29TH, 2017/DECEMBER MEETING

IN ATTENDANCE: Maureen Avery, Barbara Bailly, Eileen Gaarn, Susan Hipwell, Jeanne Holcomb, Pat Kinne, Amy Rutstein, David Rutstein, Polly Mann-Salenovich, ex officio, joined us. Chris Rembold and Ed Abrahams joined us also.

WELCOME: Meeting was called to order at 1:15 P.M. in the Arts and Crafts room at the Senior Center by David (Chair).

MINUTES: The minutes of the October 25th, 2017 meeting were approved by Pat and seconded by Eileen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of November 27th, 2017, there is a balance of \$21,853.59.

BOOK TALK: On December 12th, 2017, after lunch, David will speak about his newly published book, *A History of Searles High School*.

TOWN PLANNER: Polly invited Chris to discuss low income housing in our area. He stated that there are three major new housing developments:

- State Road – 11 units, completed and operated by Construct
- Bostwick Gardens – expansion of 31 new units to begin in late spring 2018
- New England Log site – 45 new units to begin in spring 2018 CDC

The town began a Housing Trust Fund supported by the CPA and general funds. Banks are helping with low-interest loans. This is all "advertised" on the town website and at the Senior Center. He explained the meaning of "complete streets." Every time a capital improvement is made, handicap access, pedestrians, and bicyclers needs will be part of the improvement.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: November was quite busy with Medicare Open Enrollment and many special events. There is a new certified fitness instructor who specializes in senior fitness. There was a Veteran's luncheon and a free

Thanksgiving dinner offered by Great Barrington Healthcare. There was a presentation by author Carol Owens. There was a wonderful volunteer recognition dinner with entertainment by the Teague Tappers. While the Bingo Breakfasts were quite successful they will be on hiatus during the winter months. Grateful thank yous are in order for the Bingo Breakfast chefs : Barbara and Susan.

December looks like a busy month also. On December 3rd, 2017, there will be a Recycle Day from 12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. at the Senior Center. It will be hosted by Generous Economy. There will be a Bright Nights trip. There will be a pot luck with entertainment by the Earth Angels. The movie for the month will be Wonder Woman. Great Barrington Healthcare will offer a free holiday luncheon. Monument Valley Middle School Chorus will perform. There will be a presentation about OLLI.

BOARD SPEAKS: Amy nominated Susan for the exalted office of Secretary. It was accepted by Eileen and seconded by Barbara. Thank you, Susan!

CITIZENS SPEAK: Ed mentioned that the COA does not have a group photo on the town website. He then, took our photo. Thank you, Ed.

ADJOURNMENT: Barbara made a motion to adjourn at 1:55 P.M. It was seconded by Maureen.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Rutstein

Secretary