

GREAT BARRINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING
Claire Teague Senior Center
917 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Phone: (413) 528-1881
MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2018

WELCOME: The meeting of the Great Barrington Council on Aging held at The Claire Teague Senior Center, 917 Main Street, Great Barrington, Massachusetts was 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, Member Barbara Bailly, Member Sandra Larkin, and Member Amy Rutstein. Polly Mann Salenovich, Director of the Claire Teague Senior Center is also present. Members Eileen Gaarn and Jeanne Holcomb are absent.

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2018 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice Chair Kinne and seconded by Member Rutstein.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reported a balance in the treasury of \$25,312.27.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Rear View:

- The Formula Grant for this calendar year is \$12.00 per senior which is based on the 2010 census of 1,875 seniors. The bulk of the expenditure goes to SBTC. The remainder is used for exercise classes. Restrictions apply.
 - A 911 call was placed for a senior attending the Care-Giver Support Group.
 - A conference call to the Secretary of Elder Affairs for the Quarterly Advisory Council meeting was held in lieu of driving to Boston for a one and a half hour meeting. AGE Friendly Communities was the topic of discussion.
 - A discussion with Smitty Pignatelli's office was had concerning the details of the fifty thousand dollars which is earmarked for the Senior Center.
 - Shine Council is overwhelmed with non-English speaking people; hence a request was made to the Berkshire Literacy Network to arrange for an interpreter.
 - A volunteer appreciation dinner has been planned for Wednesday, Oct. 10th and is to be held at the restaurant "Pleasant and Main" in Housatonic. Dinner is funded through "Gifts and Donations."
 - Meal attendance is down. Polly is requesting COA members to communicate and promote how good the meals are and how budget friendly they are for our seniors.
 - Polly gave kudos to David regarding the news story of the Friday, Sept. 14 issue of The Berkshire Edge
- REVIEW: A. David Rutstein's 'A History of Searles High School' parallels challenges of educational system**
- Drum Circle (new) was well received.
 - Polly renewed required Choke Saver Course and will be offering a "free" Choke Saver Course to our regular volunteers
 - Polly met with Sean Van Deusen who suggested that the COA request money for landscaping for next year's budget. The landscape needs to be thinned out so it is manageable for upkeep.

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Look Ahead:

- Oct. 9th - 11:45 AM - Fire Safety Presentation by Chief Burger: A.G.E. TRIAD will be presenting a special program about fire safety, evacuation, what to do if your fire alarm goes off, what kind of alarms you have, how to be prepared for a fire, what the FD role has in an emergency and other questions you might present.
- Oct. 9th – 10:30-11:30 AM – Public Health Alliance will be hosting a flu clinic.
- Oct. 10th – noon - Walgreens (the old Rite Aid) will be offering flu shots and SHINGRIX which is the new Shingles vaccination. Please sign up in advance at the center.
- Oct. 16th – 11:00 AM – Octoberfest: There will be a 5 piece Oompah band in festive costume and dancing to the band - 11:30 AM - Great Barrington Health Care will be hosting a delicious German Luncheon and special desserts at no cost to seniors. RSVP by: Friday, Oct. 12th
- Oct. 17th – 2:00 – 3:30 PM - Acrylic String Pulling Art: Facilitated by Liz Macchi. Cost is \$25.00, sign up in advance.
- Oct. 30th – 11:00 AM – SPOOKTACULAR Halloween Cookout: Last cookout of the year! On the menu: hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, baked beans, dessert. The cost is \$2.00 per person. Entertainment by Sandy & Sandy .
- Tuesdays at 12:30 PM– Rummikub: Join the fun! If you never played, come and learn how!

CITIZENS SPEAK: None

BOARD SPEAKS:

- Members discuss ideas regarding the application of the \$50,000 allocated to the Senior Center through Smitty Pignatelli's office.
- David reminds members that the Conflict of Interest Law "test" must be taken, read, signed and delivered annually.
- Chair Rutstein restates (from the June 27, 2018 COA meeting) the need to change the Council on Aging by-law, Article IX, #219-5 which reads: The number of members of the Council shall be (15) of which up to three (3) may be non-residents of the Town of Great Barrington inclusive of the Chairman of the Council.

Using the Amendment Article IX, #219-23 (Power to amend; procedure) which states: The Council shall have power to amend the by-laws in the following manner: (See complete by-law) which shall now be changed to read: "The number of members of the Council shall be nine (9) of which such members must be residents of the Town of Great Barrington."

The purpose of this amendment change is:

1. Changing this amendment will allow the COA to be more efficient and manageable.
2. State law now permits only residents to serve on town's COA.

To read and use attachment of Article IV, #219-5 as specified and as defined in Article IX, a fourteen day prior notice of such intent is given today, September 26, 2018, of a meeting of the COA proposed amendment scheduled for October 31, 2018.

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ADJOURNMENT: The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Bailly made the motion to adjourn and Vice Chair Kinne seconded the motion. It was unanimously agreed to adjourn at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell Morris

Secretary