

**GREAT BARRINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**Claire Teague Senior Center**  
**917 Main Street**  
**Great Barrington, MA 01230**  
**Phone: (413) 528-1881**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 31, 2018**

**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, Members Eileen Gaarn, Jeanne Holcomb and Amy Rutstein are in attendance. Polly Mann Salenovich, Director of the Claire Teague Senior Center is also present. Member Barbara Bailly, Vice Chair Pat Kinne and Member Sandra Larkin are absent.

**MINUTES:** Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2018 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes is made by Member Rutstein and seconded by Treasurer Avery.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Avery reports a balance in the treasury of \$23,943.96

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Rear View:**

- The Senior Center received the earmarked contract for the \$50,000, which uses the language "to be used for expenses to the Claire Teague Senior Center." This grant is a reimbursable grant, meaning the funds must be expended before June 30, 2019 and the project or projects must be completed by June 30, 2019.

Polly will meet with the town manager to go over suggestions and how to proceed going forward. Some of the suggestions brought to the table are:

- Remodel/improve kitchen
  - Front door awning
  - New sign/logo
  - Acoustic paneling in dining room
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- Polly attended a two day MCOA conference. Meeting with other directors, Polly collected lots of resource material and learned what new and fun programs other centers have implemented.
  - Polly raises concern regarding the downturn in senior attendance and canvasses the COA board on what "to do" to bring seniors back.
  - Octoberfest 2018 was quite a crowd pleaser. The Oompah band, so festive in their lederhosen, was a delight to hear and behold.
  - Spooktacular Halloween Cookout ("cookout" - always a favorite) – Sandy & Sandy performed, engaging the seniors with their lively and spirit-filled musicality.

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## **Look Ahead:**

- Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – 12:00 PM – A Fallon representative will be on hand to discuss their health plan.
- Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 PM – A Health New England representative will present their health plan.
- Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> – Nora Hayes, an AKC Canine Good Citizen evaluator and a therapy dog evaluator, comes weekly to the senior center to spread good feelings and happiness. Training classes are held Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM.
- Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – 12:15 PM – A Native America Presentation will be given by Carolyn Calandro of Tapfest fame. You'll hear facts, fables, amusing tales and true stories, cultural traditions and morals of Native Americans . . . presented, the only way Carolyn can, with great humor and superior knowledge.
- December 1<sup>st</sup> – noon – 1:00 PM – Tapaganza: A seasonal celebration of dance, music, stories, treats and FUN. Sign-up sheet in dining room.

## **CITIZENS SPEAK:**

- Around the discussion of noise reduction in the dining room, Ed Abrahams cites what was done in the Mason Library. A proposal for ceiling panels was deemed too expensive, hence, alternatively, carpeted flooring was installed which helped to mitigate the sound transmission.

## **BOARD SPEAKS:**

- Members discuss the disbursement of the \$50,000 Fiscal Year 19 Earmark Funding designated to the Claire Teague Senior Center to be used at the discretion of the Director for "expenses incurred."
- By-law 219-5 of Article IX is amended by COA majority vote which reads: The number of COA members shall be 9 of which such members shall be residents of Great Barrington. This referendum is passed to Great Barrington Selectboard for authorization.
- Chair Rutstein emphasizes to COA members the need to have the Conflict of Interest Law "test" to be read, signed and delivered to the Town Clerk by December 1, 2018.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Chair calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Rutstein makes the motion to adjourn and Secretary Hipwell seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan Hipwell Morris*

Approved November 28, 2018

Secretary