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-Morris, and Members Barbara Bailly, Jeanne Holcomb, Amy Rutstein and Doug Wilber are present. Members Sandra Larkin and Donna MacDowell are absent.

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of May 31, 2023. Member Bailly makes the motion to approve, and Member Rutstein seconds the motion. All members approved. Chair Rutstein welcomes and congratulates CTSC’s new director, Joan Peters.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of $38,784.94.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Updates:

Tri Town Connector – Micro transit program
- Joan expresses her present concerns regarding the inadequate number of drivers and the issues that it has created for our seniors.
- Five new drivers have been trained which hopefully will alleviate some of the current issues.
- Punch ticket sales are being offered to passengers at a discounted rate.
- Joan redresses complaints by senior passengers to Town Planner Chris Rembold.
  - i.e. – Rides to Lenox were not happening as Lenox did not participate in the micro transit program. This means that seniors were unable to depend on the transit program to keep their appointments with their physicians that reside in Lenox.

New Hire
- A few applications for assistant admin have come in and interviews will begin July 6.
On the Horizon
- Marjon to begin next month.
- A weekend musical event in the planning stage
- Attracting younger seniors to join our volunteers and attend our events and programs.

Volunteer Staff
- The Choke Saver Course was attended by most of the volunteers. The volunteers agreed that it was helpful and very much appreciated.
- A Saturday in May was devoted to cleaning and organizing the kitchen and dining room. The volunteers completely enjoyed the day and Joan was most appreciative of their help. More cleaning and organizing days ahead.

New Purchases
- Grant money will be available to pay for the new dishwasher in full, or in part.
- Furniture mover – chair carts

BOARD SPEAKS:
- Members congratulate Joan on the job she is doing.
- Members discuss the problem of unleashed dogs running through the senior center and particularly in the dining room where it could easily be a tripping issue.
- Member Wilber, after diligent research, explains what is involved in installing a new dishwasher in the kitchen - the pros and cons of a commercial dishwasher versus two home dishwashers, the electrical costs, and bringing the electrical panel up to code. A vote was taken among the members to decide on their preference between the commercial and home dishwashers. The vote was evenly split; hence the vote was tabled for the next meeting.
- Member Holcomb makes the motion to nominate Member Doug Wilber for the COA Chairperson and Member Rutstein seconds the motion. All members approve.
- Director Peters thanks Member David Rutstein for his long-term service as chairperson to the COA.

CITIZENS SPEAK: None

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Rutstein calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Rutstein makes the motion to adjourn, and Member Holcomb seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hipwell-Morris

Minutes approved July 26, 2023