MEETING MINUTES
August 30, 2023

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 Doug Wilber.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chair Doug Wilber, Treasurer Maureen Avery, Secretary Susan Hipwell-Morris, and Members Barbara Bailly, Jeanne Holcomb, Sandra Larkin, Donna MacDowell, Amy Rutstein, and David Rutstein are present.

MINUTES: Chair Wilber asks for a motion to approve the minutes of July 26, 2023. Member Avery makes the motion to approve, and Member Bailly seconds the motion. All members approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of $36,991.81.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Updates:

Sad news: Joan announces the passing of Eileen Gaarn who was a former board member of the GB COA and one of the longest serving members. Board members are sorry to hear this sad news and recall Eileen’s contributions to the board and her very special talent for writing beautiful poetry. A $50.00 donation will be made to the Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad.

Tri Town Connector – Micro transit program
  • Joan is pleased to announce that the transit program continues to grow.
  • Daily transportation to McCann Technical School in North Adams is now being provided for our south county youths.

Staff
  • Pam Mulvey has been hired to fill the vacancy of assistant admin for the senior center and the firehouse. Pam's start date is Tuesday, September 5. A warm welcome to Pam.

New Ideas on the Horizon
  • A new contact has been established for day trips. Plans are in the works for trips to Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory in Deerfield, Mass, and the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst, Mass.
• Joan proposes to collaborate with the Railroad Street Youth Program on doing some cooking with their culinary team. The intention is to promote intergenerational communication.
• More intergenerational events to come.
• WSBS – Joan is hoping to do a bi-monthly PR segment for the Claire Teague Senior Center.

Volunteer Staff.
• A second staff meeting was well attended; volunteers spent a couple of hours cleaning closets/cabinets and disposing of unused items.

Updates
• The new dishwasher installation is in progress. The electrician will be here on Friday to install the necessary outlet.
• The bids for paving the parking lot were opened and the scheduling should be ironed out soon after. Joan hopes to accommodate the seniors through the process.

Grant Money
• The cost of the dishwasher was covered by the COA budget without having to dip into Gifts and Donations.

New Proposals
• A possible new awning for the front door.
  o Chair Wilber recommends Larkin Enterprises, LLC, a SunAir Awning Dealer.

BOARD SPEAKS: The board discusses the benefits of an awning over the front entrance.

CITIZENS SPEAK: None

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Wilber calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Holcomb makes the motion to adjourn, and Member Rutstein seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 1:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell-Morris
Secretary

Approved - October 25, 2023