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, Sandra Larkin, Amy Rutstein and Doug Wilbur are present.

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of March 29, 2023. Member Rutstein makes the motion to approve, and Member Bailly 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 $39,283.63.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Updates:

Tri Town Connector – Micro transit program
• Joan expresses her concerns regarding the implementation and policy changes of the newly formed micro transit program and has articulated these concerns to Program Director, Tate Coleman and Assistant Town Manager, Chris Rembold.
  ▪ Concerns:
    ▪ The center’s disengagement from seniors as transportation has been taken out of its hands.
    ▪ Policy changes that are seemingly inappropriate for our seniors
    ▪ The Tri Town Connector’s push for the COA to continue to pay part of the payroll budget.

Director's Training:
• Joan participated in several on-line meetings about food insecurity.
• Matter of Balance: The program’s goal is to reduce fear of falling, stop the fear of falling cycle, increase activity levels and confidence among older adults.
• Memory Training with the Pittsfield, COA
**Donations:** Over six hundred dollars were donated to the Claire Teague Senior Center in memory of Moira Teague Kelsey who recently passed away. Moira was the daughter of Claire Teague who established the center.

**Note:**
- The CHP (Community Health Program) will be visiting the center monthly.
- The foot nurse will be semi-retiring in December.

**Volunteer Staff:**
- Training – Choke Saver class presented by David Katzenstein, EMT and American Heart Association CPR instructor.
- “Think Tank” meeting is scheduled to discuss proposals, concerns, etcetera.
- A date is to be scheduled for clean-up, organizing, and whatever else is necessary to bring the center up to snuff.
- Briefing on the AED (automated external defibrillator) system

**New upcoming classes**
- Walking class
- Balance class

**Meals on the horizon for June:**
- Chef Avery’s special “goulash” luncheon, is, as always, enjoyed by all. Thank you, Bob!
- The Landing at Laurel Lake, Lee, Massachusetts, once again, offers a free luncheon for our seniors. Thank you!
- Geer Village Lodge, Caanan, Connecticut offers a free lunch with a balance class to follow. Thank you, Geer Village Lodge!
- Barbara Bailly’s breakfast for lunch is always a hit! Thanks, Barbara!
- Our first cookout for the summer includes our guests, Chief Storti and members of the Great Barrington Police force. Thank you!

**BOARD SPEAKS:**
- Members discuss building maintenance and upgrades.
  - Dishwasher – the pros and cons of a commercial dishwasher versus a regular dishwasher.
  - Signage – the need for something more visible from Main Street.
  - Building refurbishing – painting, cleaning, etcetera
- Chair Rutstein reads a report from the British Lancet Medical Journal on the association between hearing loss and dementia.
- Chair Rutstein calls for a motion to approve Donna MacDowell as a new member of the Council on Aging. Member Holcomb makes the motion to approve, and Member Bailly seconds the motion. All members approved the nomination.
- Chair Rutstein calls for a motion to approve the change of COA meetings from (no meetings in July and August) to meetings in July and August. All board members approved of the change.
- The COA vice chair vacancy must be filled by an existing COA member.
- The new COA board chair is to be nominated at next month’s meeting in June.
CITIZENS SPEAK: None

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Rutstein calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Bailly makes the motion to adjourn, and Member Rutstein seconds the motion. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 1:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell-Morris
Secretary

Approved June 28, 2023