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

MINUTES: Chair Rutstein asks for a motion to approve the minutes of November 30, 2022. Member Rutstein makes the motion to approve, and Member Bailly seconds the motion.


DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Updates:

Announcement
- Director of the Claire Teague Senior Center, Polly Mann Salenovitch, announces her retirement as of May 2, 2023. Polly has served in this position for 11 years.

Micro transit program
- David Torres has been hired as manager for the pilot program. The start date is March 2.
- The program will continue to be based out of the senior center.
- The hours will be 6:00 am through 7:00 pm, 7 days a week.
- The goal is to hire 15 drivers.
- The program is paid for by a grant.
- The rides will be shared with the public; the seniors will be given priority.
Donation
- An anonymous donation of 2,000 dollars was given to the senior center to be used at the director’s discretion.

COA’s budget
- The new budget begins March 1st.
- Polly requests an increase in pay for bus drivers.
- The kitchen renovation is put on hold for now.

BOARD SPEAKS:
Chair Rutstein, who has served on the board for many years, will be stepping down from this position as of June 30, but he will continue to serve as a member. The board thanks David for his dedicated years of service.

Member Eileen Gaarn, at 94 years of age, has resigned as a member of the board. Eileen is one of the original board members, and the board thanks her for her dedication to the COA as well. David reflects on her service and her talent for poetry.

Member Bailly requests that the kitchen door be locked after hours. Regarding the micro-transit program, member Bailly queries Polly about whose responsibility it will be for maintaining the buses.

The COA board members express their appreciation to Polly for her 11 years of service to the seniors of Great Barrington and the community at-large.

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 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell-Morris
Secretary

Approved March 29, 2023