

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

MEETING MINUTES
December 27, 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 1:00 pm by Chair Doug Wilber.

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

MINUTES: Chair Wilber asks for a motion to approve the minutes of November 29, 2023. Treasurer Maureen Avery makes the motion to approve, and Member Amy Rutstein seconds the motion. All approve.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Avery reports a balance of \$28,642.61.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Updates:

Looking back:

- The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's *Lunch & Learn* presentation was well attended. Attendees learned about Mass Save's income-eligible incentives to keep their home warm and save on energy bills this winter. Thank you BRPC!
- Earth Angels vocal group and potluck luncheon was a success. Thank you Earth Angels for bringing the Christmas spirit to the center once again!

Coming in January:

- We welcome Beverly Dunn, RN (foot nurse). Beverly will be available, by appointment, beginning the second Monday in January.

Looking ahead:

- Since the south county campus of BBC closed, Joan contacted OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) of Berkshire Community College with the view to holding classes at the center.

Capital Improvements:

- Joan is requesting a multi-passenger vehicle to be used by the COA only. Joan hopes to have it by July.

COA budget:

- Joan is asking for a new line item to the budget for Outreach coordinator, part time position.

AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program:

- Tax-Aide volunteers will be here to help, starting in February.

BOARD SPEAKS:

- Signage - Chair Wilber passes photo prototype for signage to board members for their review.
- Member MacDowell suggests advertising congregate meals to the public via additional sources, i.e. the Shoppers Guide. Joan suggests the wording “congregate meals” be added to signage.
- The Matter of Balance class is discussed.
- Capital Improvement Suggestions:
 - Washer and Dryer hook-up
 - Restroom rehab
- Introduce a book club
- Cleaning service for building? DPW?

CITIZENS SPEAK: Ms. Labagh suggests using the word “lunch” in place of congregate meals. Ms. Labagh requests that something be done at the front entrance to keep the cold air at bay during the winter months. Chair Wilber makes a suggestion on what can be done to mitigate the problem. Ms. Labagh commends Joan on the fantastic job she is doing.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Wilber calls for a motion to adjourn. Member Rutstein makes the motion to adjourn. It is unanimously agreed to adjourn at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hipwell-Morris
Secretary

Approved - January 31, 2024