

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS

CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Childcare Committee in-person at Mason Library Community Room, 231 Main Street, Great Barrington and via Zoom – Order of Agenda for Monday, April 28, 2025 at 12PM

1. Meeting called to order at 12:08pm by Chair, Kate Van Olst
 - a. Members present: Kate Van Olst, Ruby Chang, Kate Tucci, Mary Stephen, Jenise Lucy
 - b. Members absent: Ryan Seas, Aretha Whitehead, Meredith Smyth
 - c. Others present: Amy Richman, Peter Dillion, Cynthia Grey
2. Discussion of minutes from meetings of February 24, 2025 and March 31, 2025 tabled due to time constraints, will discuss at next meeting.
3. Peter Dillion joined via Zoom and presented an overview of the plan for CLEO / after-school programming for school year 2025/2026. Although the grant funding that supported CLEO in the past is ending, he is confident that they will be able to offer some similar program next year. That will include students in grades one through 6 and provide snack and transportation. They have not confirmed the capacity yet, but he will be presenting to the School Committee and plans to make announcements to families by the end of this school year.
 - a. Discussion of other programs offered at Muddy Brook that could be expanded or formalized in the future
 - i. Early drop-off programs
 - ii. Muddy Brook is host to, but does not run, a Head Start classroom. Kate Van Olst and Kate Tucci will connect with Head Start about whether they could have capacity to expand, and how they are approaching uncertain grant and funding sources.
 - iii. There is a Preschool classroom at Monument High School - it is run as a 'teaching laboratory' as part of the vocation training program offered for HS students. It expanded from half day to full day and serves roughly five children, including child of district teachers / staff.
4. Cynthia Grey joined via Zoom. She is the director of education at GreenAgers and does lots of programming at the middle school. They are community partners with CLEO - every session they contract with the school district to provide programming. They work to connect students with a sense of place in the towns in which they live.
5. Jovanina Pagano has coordinated a presentation at the Selectboard meeting on Monday, May 19th at 6pm on the topic of after school care options for school age children.

Presenters include Jenise Lucy from Berkshire South, JP Okin from BHRSD, and Cynthia Grey from Greenagers.

6. Discussion of how the Committee can promote attendance of families and stakeholders at the Selectboard meeting.
 - a. Plan created to host a table at the upcoming Mud Day at Muddy Brook Elementary on Saturday May 17, 2025 from 12-4pm
 - b. Kate Tucci will work with Jovanina to create a flyer
 - c. Kate Van Olst will coordinate with Muddy Brook
 - d. Tucci and Van Olst will design a survey for families with input from expert, Amy Richman
 - e. Jenise Lucy offerend support from Berkshire South
 - f. Mary Stephen offered to volunteer at the Mud Day Table
7. Ruby Chang suggested hosting community outreach events for families and children at the town libraries. Also encourages us to focus on finding funding to support maintaining or expanding new and existing childcare programs.
8. Future meeting dates
 - a. Special meeting by ZOOM ONLY to prepare for Mud Day: May 12, 2025 at 12pm
 - b. May 19, 2025
 - c. June 23, 2025
9. Motion to adjourn made by R Chang, and seconded by K Tucci. Approved by unanimous vote at 1:03pm.