



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York  
Borough of Queens*

**Community Board 8**

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

# Minutes

<b>Aging Committee Meeting:</b>	<b>Home Sharing Program</b>
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, February 23, 2023
<b>Time:</b>	7:30 p.m.
<b>Place:</b>	Community Board 8’s Office 197-15 Hillside Avenue in Hollis Via Webinar

**Mary Maggio, Aging Committee Chair**

**Board Members:** Mary Maggio

**Board Members (virtual):** Solomon Davydov, Alan Ong, and Dr. Penny Stern.

**Also, in attendance:** Barbara Baer - NYFSC, and District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide

*Chairperson Maggio called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.*

Chairperson Mary Maggio introduced herself and acknowledged the presence of Board Members Solomon Davydov, Dr. Penny Stern and Alan Ong who have joined virtually. District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide introduced herself. Chairperson Maggio invited our guest speaker to speak.

**Ms. Barbara Baer** – She introduced herself as the Director of the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens’ (NYFSC) Home Sharing Program. Home Sharing is a matching program sponsored by the New York City Department of Aging. Under this program, a host who is the owner or lease holder is matched with a guest who is looking to share space. This space must include at least a room, access to a kitchen and bathroom.

To qualify for this program one person has to be at least 60 years old or over and the other must be at least 18 years old or over. The host and guest must answer a 32-question questionnaire which is used to match people. This is followed by an interview conducted by a social worker to assist in the matching. If the host is a lease holder, he/she can only charge up to half of the cost of the lease (*i.e., if the lease is \$1500 only up to \$750 can be charged*). If the host is a homeowner, NYFSC will determine what the fair market value is for the space being shared in the house.

They also require three (3) character reference letters for both host and guest. They also check the guest’s income to determine what he/she can afford to pay. They also ask about pets and overnight guest (s). It is really a “boutique program” catered to the needs of both hosts and guests. They do their best to try to keep guests in their preferred neighborhoods.

***Committee Chairperson Maggio asked if this program is known under a different name.***

Ms. Baer replied, “No. It has always been Home Sharing.”

The guest and host must sign an agreement. They have thirty (30) days to withdraw. Many senior citizens, on average, have a total monthly income of only \$983. This makes the home sharing placement incredibly important.

***Committee Chairperson Maggio asked if Ms. Baer was aware of this type of program anywhere else.***

Ms. Baer – There are some in California. Her program only covers the five boroughs of New York City. She is aware of one in Ithaca, New York, and another in Vermont.

The program is looking for homes in every borough, especially in Queens.

***Committee Chairperson Maggio asked if there were any questions. She acknowledged DM Adam-Ovide.***

***DM Adam-Ovide asked what happens if there is an issue between the host and the guest once the thirty (30) days have elapsed. Do they leave them to work it out alone?***

Ms. Baer stated that they have a mediation service available.

Due to technical difficulties, the members who attended virtually could not hear the presentation. A brief recap of the presentation was given while Committee Chairperson Maggio spoke to one of the members on the telephone.

***Board Member Solomon Davydov would like to share information with members of his community and asked for more information.***

Ms. Baer left some literature. DM Adam-Ovide will include the information in the March 2023 Newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Adam-Ovide, District Manager  
March 13, 2023*