

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

June 13, 2008

ROLL CALL

Present:	Andy Kehr, Chairman	Sheila Franklin, Secretary
	Betty Bader	Jeanne Duntz
	Harry Colgan, TB Liaison	Judy Walsh
Also Present:	Henry Christopher	Dick Franklin
Absent:	Jennifer Fivelsdal	Kelly Mosher
	Carl Dowden	Rose Rider

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:39 AM. and welcomed guest Henry Christopher, editor of the Barrytown Gazette.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MAY 9, 2008 MEETING

Andy asked if there were any questions about the Minutes or any corrections. After a small change was made on page 2, Betty made a motion to accept the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Judy and all were in favor.

MONTHLY REPORT TO TOWN BOARD

Andy shared with the committee copies of his monthly report to the Town Board.

RED HOOK COMMONS / DIAL A RIDE

Andy said that he has received e-mails from Rose and Betty in regard to Red Hook Commons. Rose's e-mail said she found that many residents still do not know about Dial A Ride and more information is needed. Betty said that when she went to Red Hook Commons, they were not expecting her. She spoke with Margaret Sheehy and they decided not to do anything until after the Open House for Phase 2 of the project. She felt that the residents had completed the Dial A Ride applications and indicated that now she is really looking for volunteers who could work individually with some of them. Margaret is compiling a list of their needs, but mentioned the teaching of crafts.

Andy confirmed that the Committee's goal of promoting Dial A Ride has been accomplished and therefore we will not be going there for this purpose. He said that the thrust of the e-mails he has received indicate that they are seeking volunteers to provide specific services. Betty suggested that residents might be able to help each other and a list of volunteers might be developed from within the project. She said that Margaret has plans to set up craft groups. She also said that the OFA has community service staff with assigned districts and if there is a problem, they are on top of it. Betty offered to be the contact person and to drop by and keep in touch with Margaret. Andy confirmed that

Betty will be the liaison to Red Hook Commons and will filter information to the Committee. Judy emphasized that they need to know that we are here as a resource.

Betty said that Rhinebeck will not be using Dial A Ride. They are negotiating with the Thompson House for the use of transportation which will accommodate handicapped individuals.

In regard to the residents with language problems, Jeanne said that she may have located a translator for Polish and possibly Hungarian. Judy will be sending Andy the e-mail address. Dick said that Jonathan Becker told him to contact him in July when the students start arriving. Jonathan also indicated that the students might be able to help with teaching computer skills. Andy suggested having Jonathan get together with Margaret. Betty will contact Margaret, tell her about this offer and see if she is interested. If she is interested, Dick can contact Jonathan and arrange for him to meet with Margaret.

In regard to the blind resident, Dick suggested contacting the local Lighthouse. Betty asked if it would be enough to simply assist this person in getting on and off the bus. Wouldn't he need to be escorted in order to shop, etc.? Andy said he would contact the Lighthouse. Dick said that if the Manager of Hannaford, or any other super market, were contacted, they would arrange for someone to help this person with his shopping. Betty said she would check with Margaret to see if any help has been obtained yet and would let Andy know. Dick offered to contact Hannaford.

BROCHURE

Andy explained to Henry Christopher that as a senior service committee, the group is trying to compile information which would be helpful to the seniors in our community. He said that there seem to be two groups of seniors: those who are involved in groups and have computers and those who are not involved and who are harder to reach. He said that the group has opted to try to put out a brochure. He handed out copies of the Rhinebeck Committee's publication. He said that we want to try to identify key areas to be included in the brochure, e.g. local health care options, Dial A Ride, OFA, etc. He envisions a one to two page initial publication. He asked Henry what his recommendation would be for a plan of action. He said that he receives the Barrytown Gazette by e-mail and asked if Henry delivers the paper. Henry said that he sends it out by e-mail, but also delivers it door to door.

Henry asked who will do it and how it will be printed and distributed. He said that it can be done on any program and that would be the easiest way to produce it. He also asked if it would have to be stapled, which poses a problem of additional work. He then asked if were going to be printed on both sides. He said that the fastest and least expensive way to handle it is to send it out by e-mail. Andy asked Dick if we have e-mail addresses for seniors. Dick said that he had only street addresses. Henry said that it takes time to get e-mail addresses.

A two sided publication was discussed. Henry said that is more involved and would require other programs, such as Adobe Illustrated or Quark Express. Dick said that those are pricey programs, but he has Microsoft Publisher. Henry offered to go to Dick's house to help him with the set up of the publication. He said that he would not envision including a lot of art, but rather using Word and having only text. Andy said that e-mail is not viable as we do not have addresses. Judy added that e-mail would leave some people out. Dick suggested that Marc Molinaro be contacted to see if the Committee could get a grant for the project.

Discussion then focused on how many brochures would be needed. Dick said he could cut the resident data to get any age group; e.g. sixty plus, sixty-two plus, etc. Andy asked how many seniors there would be if the cut were made at sixty plus. Dick felt that it would be between 900 and 1000. Henry said that that is why he hand delivers his publication. He makes 250 copies of it. Andy agreed that it would be too costly to mail. It was suggested that copies be left in the following places:

- Banks
- Post Office
- CVS
- Red Hook Commons
- The Town Hall
- Red Hook and Tivoli Libraries
- Bread Plus program
- Meals on Wheels program
- Local churches
- Red Hook Seniors program
- Northern Dutchess Hospital (perhaps with the Discharge planners)
- Pharmacies such as Nekos or Hannaford Pharmacy
- Information Booth at Red Hook
- Chamber of Commerce
- Red Hook Village Hall
- Brain Games
- Exercise Group

When Henry asked how often the publication would be coming out, Andy responded that the group would like to get one out there and then see what happens. He asked Dick if he and Henry could get the material on a computer file and Dick agreed, but did ask if another person could help. Henry said that he would like to be an advisor and not be actually responsible for producing the publication. Andy said that he would send Dick information and it could also be cut and pasted from the Rhinebeck publication. Andy then focused the discussion on the content to be included. He will be e-mailing Dick information on the following topics:

- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Adult Day Programs
- Home Health Care Agencies

Durable medical equipment vendors
Pharmacies
Agencies supplying Life Line Systems

Parts of the OFA brochure can be scanned and included. Betty will check with Nina on Monday as to which services would best be included and will get back to Andy. Betty handed out several brochures from the OFA for the group to consider. Once the content is sent to Dick and Henry, Andy said, they can compile it and bring a copy to the next meeting. He emphasized that we do not want to include too much information or it will end up in the wastebasket. He felt that a description of each service would not be necessary, simply a bulleted list. Betty agreed, stating that later we could expand the publication to include articles, e.g. about EPIC or the Medicare Drug Plan. Andy summarized that he will send the health information to Dick and Betty will be working on the OFA material. When Henry asked if there might be large type for seniors, a discussion of type fonts ensued.

Henry said it would be better to have a sheet which is not folded. Andy felt it should be one page on both sides, to include a bulleted list of selected OFA services with telephone numbers. Henry said that the design has to be clear if people are to read and understand it. He suggested that one easy way to do this would be to have two pages each with two columns and headers, e.g. OFA, etc. Most, but not necessarily all, of it should be in that format with clear headers and bulleted information.

Andy will write an introduction. It was decided that the following categories would be included:

1. Community Action - Betty
2. Vendor and health care information – Andy
3. OFA with key programs bulleted – Betty
4. Local activities, e.g. Brain Games, exercise, libraries, AARP, Seniors, etc. - Betty
5. Upcoming events, e.g. the Red Hook picnic, Expo, Review of Part D, Medicare – Betty & Andy

Betty said that the churches do not want to be contacted directly regarding the food pantries. They are saying that people should call Community Action. She also said that the Red Hook Library would let us advertise programs. There is a precedent for the Board of Directors to sponsor a special event at Elmendorph and they are willing to organize meetings with guest speakers.

Descriptions will be kept simple and informational. Andy emphasized that the goal is to have it on paper by the next meeting, i.e. July 11th, get it finalized and then distributed. Betty asked if the draft could be e-mailed to the committee members before the next meeting.

JOINT EXPO WITH RHINEBECK

Judy said that she went to the joint meeting and it was very productive. She said that they are requesting a building with adjacent parking. Andy said that the Rhinebeck Committee says we need 21 long tables and 75 chairs for the Expo and they are asking if we can borrow them. Nina suggested that we ask community groups, e.g. Rotary or Chamber of Commerce. Andy will contact the Chamber of Commerce and will ask Carl about Rotary. Andy asked if the Rhinebeck Committee has set up the next meeting and Judy responded that they had not. Andy said that he will let the group know when he finds out about the next meeting. Judy said that they have our list of vendors and a copy of the letter which this committee sent out and they are proceeding with that material.

Sheila said that United Way has a Helpline and Andy said this should be included in the brochure.

TELEPHONE EXTENSION

Andy said that the main issue is whether or not the committee can adequately man the line. Betty suggested that someone take the responsibility of calling in to see what messages have accumulated. Andy said that we would then need a call in schedule. Andy cautioned that the committee must be prepared to follow through on any commitment which it makes. He stressed the need to be prepared and expressed his concern about making this commitment. He added that Sue Crane has concerns about the issue.

Betty asked if people actually call the Town Hall with questions about services. She wondered if this service is really necessary. Dick left the meeting to speak briefly to Sue McCann. When he returned, he said that Sue indicated that there are no more than six such calls a month. Andy stated that he would like to start out in a small way by including an e-mail contact in the brochure. He also said he would talk to Sue Crane and tell her that we do not think the extension is warranted due to the limited number of inquiries which can be expected. He will ask if we can say in the brochure that any calls may be directed to the Town Hall. If such calls are received, they can be referred to us as necessary.

PANDA PROGRAM

Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, July 11 , 2008 at 9:30 AM in the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Jeanne and seconded by Betty. As all were in agreement, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin
Secretary, Senior Services Committee

