

**MINUTES**  
**SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE**

January 8, 2009

**ROLL CALL**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:25 A.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, NOVEMBER 5, 2008 MEETING**

Andy asked if there were any modifications or corrections to the Minutes. Hearing none, Carl made a motion to accept the Minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Kelly and all were in favor.

**BROCHURE**

Andy ascertained that everyone had seen the brochure on the website. He said that he had gone to Copy Cat to inquire about making copies of the brochure and had been quoted a price of \$.61 per brochure, stapled and folded. He asked if there were any changes or modifications to the brochure. Hearing none, he said that Sue McCann had suggested the inclusion of information on Meals on Wheels. Although the program is mentioned under the Office of the Aging entry, he suggested making a separate listing with the OFA telephone number. Carl said that there are various Meals on Wheels sites around the County and he did not know where they are located locally. Andy will call the OFA and find out. No other changes were suggested.

Andy said that at the next Town Board meeting, he will request funding for the printing of more brochures. Rose said that the Committee has a budget line. Andy asked her to let him know how much was allocated for 2009. It was determined that four to five hundred copies had been made prior to the Expo. Andy suggested that 200 to 250 copies be printed at this time. Kelly said that there is an extensive mailing list. Dick will be asked to e-mail Andy with numbers for the mailing. He has a listing of all the seniors in the County as well as the Expo attendees. It was suggested that he be asked to make two age cuts: 55 to 65 years and 65 and over.

There was an initial discussion of where the brochures might be circulated. Rose said that the AARP members were appreciative when she distributed the brochure previously. Andy said that he spoke to people at the Expo and they liked it because it was short and concise.

### **MISSION STATEMENT FOR WEBSITE**

Sheila explained that, in addition to the link to the Senior News brochure, Dick Wambach has set up a page for the Senior Services Committee and has asked what information the Committee would like on that page. He suggested a mission statement, a list of members and possibly meeting dates. Andy agreed that there should be a list of members as well as meeting dates. He felt that the community should be made aware of the Committee and its purpose and he favored development of a Mission Statement. He invited the group to e-mail key words/ideas to him. Kelly said that everyone should put something together so that it can be discussed at the next meeting. Andy said that if everyone contributes words or phrases, the group can build the language from that. The members should feel free to contact each other with concerns or ideas. Sheila said that she will contact Dick Wambach and give him a list of members and meeting dates.

### **LIFT AND ASSIST CALLS FROM RED HOOK COMMONS TO THE RHFDF**

Andy said that he is waiting for Dick Franklin to contact him regarding protocols for lift and assist. If there is resource information, he said, the Committee would like to provide it to Red Hook Commons. However, he felt that if the situation is escalating, the Fire Department should step in and determine what is going on. Carl said that he hears calls on his scanner from places other than Red Hook Commons. However, he did not know if there is another procedure and felt that people do not know if there is another resource. Kelly asked if there is a live-in person at the facility. Carl said that there was to have been a person for Phase 1 and another for Phase 2, but the facility is for independent living and residents should not be calling for that kind of help. Andy thought that the problem is probably being caused by one or two people. He concluded by saying that the Committee will provide whatever resource information it can obtain.

### **FOOD PANTRIES**

There was discussion about the fact that the local food pantries are overwhelmed by the current demand. Andy suggested that the Committee might wish to sponsor a food drive for the community. Carl said that the Interact Club, which is sponsored by Rotary, had a food drive in the High School. Rose suggested putting information on the website indicating that Community Action is in need of donations. Carl felt that a concerted effort would be needed if the group is to provide assistance. He said that the Interact Club has completed two successful projects. It encompasses three classes and the kids really get involved. In response to questioning, he explained that the Interact Club is an international service club for High School students. There are about twenty students in the group and it is open to anyone.

Kelly said that the teachers would have to get involved. Andy suggested picking one grade level and approaching the Principal. Proceeds would go to the Methodist Church food pantry and to Community Action. He said that the PTA could also be involved. Carl said that the PTA could provide a means by which to get out communications. Andy said that he would e-mail his contacts at the school and pick out a grade level.

The project would be a food drive sponsored by the Senior Services Committee to benefit the Methodist Church food pantry and Community Action. Rose suggested that proceeds should go only to Community Action as other churches also sponsor food pantries. Sheila said that Community Action should be contacted. Kelly agreed, saying that we should find out what items are most needed. Carl said that boxes could be put out in the supermarkets for donations. The members of Interact hand out a flyer to people going in the market so that they can make a donation of fresh food on the way out. When they hand out the flyer, they explain the project briefly. Kelly suggested that the PTA might print and distribute a flyer. Andy summed up the discussion, saying that he would contact Community Action and get a sense of what they need and would also call Ruth Oxenburg, Pres. of the PTA, and Brian Boyd, the Principal for grades three to five.

### **PANDA & LONG TERM PROJECT**

Andy tabled discussion of PANDA until the next meeting, when he hoped that Dick Franklin might be present.

### **SENIOR READING PROJECT**

Andy said that on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> he spoke with Donna Gaynor, Principal of K to 2, regarding projects which would benefit the children. He said that she had some ideas which would be good for the students, the school and the seniors. She suggested a program where seniors read to the K to 2 children. She could provide guidelines as to what kinds of things could be pointed out to the children when reading or the reader could simply read. Kelly said that she thought such a program could provide seniors with a connection to the school.

It is hoped that five to eight people might volunteer their time and a schedule could be drawn up. Sheila asked how often the volunteers would be reading and how much time would be involved. Kelly suggested that there might a sign up and Rose agreed. She felt that it would not be possible to get anyone to do it every week. Andy said that it would involve fifteen to twenty minutes each time and different people could sign up for different times. He said that he felt that once people do it, they will have a positive experience and it will proliferate. He said that after he gives Donna the names, she will provide a list of times. There would be fifteen to thirty minutes blocks of time.

Rose said that she could mention the project at AARP; however she was not overly optimistic about the response because it involves such a small period of time. She said that she could also get it put in the AARP newsletter. Kelly mentioned a Dr. Seuss reading day which is run by the school and is quite successful. Andy said that Donna wants to get the community into the school more. He added that a background check would not be necessary because the teacher would be in the room. He suggested mentioning the project at the exercise group. It was mentioned that Jeanne is involved in that group and Betty is involved with the Red Hook Seniors. Andy will call Betty and Jeanne. Sheila suggested including information about the project on the website and Andy agreed that this should be done.

Andy said that Donna proposed recording the seniors reading so that the children could listen to the recordings later on their IPODs. There was a brief discussion regarding interviews with seniors on the topic of what the community looked like twenty or thirty years ago. Rose described the Big Read project in which the Friends of the Library and the Historical Society are planning to partner and have a reading of The Great Gatsby. The purpose is to get the book into the community as well as information about the time period it depicts. To this end, the archives of the Historical Society will be used to determine what the community looked like at that time. The organizations are applying for a grant at the end of the month. If successful, the project would take place sometime between Spring and Fall, in roughly the same time frame as the Committee's project.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The Committee agreed that it would henceforth meet on the first Thursday of the month at 9:15 AM. The next meeting will therefore be held on February 5, 2009 at 9:15 AM in the Town Hall. A schedule of 2009 meetings is appended to these Minutes.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Kelly and seconded by Carl. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin  
Secretary, Senior Services Committee

2009 SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS

January 8, 2009

February 5, 2009

March 5, 2009

April 2, 2009

May 7, 2009

June 4, 2009

July 2009 – No meeting

August 2009 – No meeting

September 3, 2009

October 1, 2009

November 5, 2009

December 3, 2009