

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 2, 2009

ROLL CALL

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman Sheila Franklin, Secretary
 Betty Bader Kelly Mosher
 Jeanne Duntz Rose Rider
 Susan Goldstein Judy Walsh

Also Present: Robert McKeon, TB liaison; Dick Franklin

Absent: Carl Dowden, Jennifer Fivelsdal

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:22 A.M. Andy introduced a candidate for the vacant seat on the Committee, Susan Goldstein. Susan is a Social Worker and was Director of Jewish Family Services for twelve years. In this capacity, she gained experience working with seniors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MARCH 5, 2009 MEETING

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

BROCHURE

Andy asked if the group had any changes or additions after reviewing the Brochure on the web site. As no further changes were suggested, he went on to review the status of the project. The Committee had decided to wait until June or July before printing additional copies of the Brochure. In the interim, new activities can be funneled through the web site. Betty said that she will advise the Committee of the date, but the new Medicare information will not be available until November.

Sheila said that there had been an inquiry about Red Hook senior activities at the Town Hall and she had provided the individual with a brochure. She also gave Sue McCann ten additional copies as Sue had none left. After discussion it was determined that as some of the members of the Committee had a few copies of the Brochure, these should be brought to Sheila so that they are all in a central location and the Committee can keep track of how many are available.

Rose offered to run off a few copies at Copy Cat and suggested a colored cover sheet. Dick noted that the Rhinebeck Newsletter has a yellow cover and suggested that the Committee use a different color. After discussion, it was decided that the cover sheet should be light green.

LIFT AND ASSIST CALLS FROM RED HOOK COMMONS TO THE RHFD

Andy reviewed the original issue, which was the number of lift and assist calls from Red Hook Commons to the Red Hook Fire Department. He said that the Committee had found that there was no specific protocol. Dick said that if a person needs lift and assist, it is easiest to call Northern Dutchess Paramedics whereas if it is a medical emergency, 911 should be called.

Andy continued, saying that the Committee had decided to try to get a sense of the number of calls from the community as compared to those from Red Hook Commons. He contacted Pete Coon, the Fire Chief, who said that he had obtained the data from the District EMS Center: there were 53 calls from Red Hook Commons and 600 from the rest of the community. Pete will look at the calls in terms of lift and assist requests versus those requiring medical treatment and will e-mail the information to Andy. Rose noted that many of the calls from Red Hook Commons could have been ambulance calls. Andy said that when Pete analyzes the data for the town, it will be interesting to see if there is a particular area with a large number of calls. The question would then arise as to whether people in that area have Life Line.

FOOD DRIVE

For the benefit of the new member, Andy reviewed the status of the project. The Food Drive will be cosponsored by the Committee and the Red Hook Seniors and will take place from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on April 21st and April 28th at the Firehouse. He said that Sheila had prepared two possible advertisements and circulated them to the Committee. The group favored the second ad, which it felt to be clear and concise. He said that he then called Pete Coon, the Fire Chief, who directed him to Fr. Fred Cartier, who is in the charge of the room where the Seniors meet. Andy spoke to Fr. Fred and locked in the two dates for the Drive.

Sheila then reported that she had sent the ad to the Poughkeepsie Journal, the Kingston Freeman, the Hudson River Sampler, PANDA and Dick Wambach for the web site. She also had copies of the ad put up in the Town Hall and on the door of her office at the Town Hall (i.e. the ZBA office).

Andy said that now that the date and time for the Drive have been set, the logistics must be considered, e.g. manning the project and PR. Betty and Jeanne offered to man the lobby at the Firehouse. Rose asked if an arrangement had been made for receptacles. Susan said that she had stickers for boxes which identify them as being for a Food Drive. With these stickers, any boxes can be used. Andy asked for a volunteer to get boxes and Bob offered to do this. Carl will be contacting Community Action to be sure that someone will be there to receive the boxes of donated items on April 21st and April 28th at about 3:30 PM.

Rose handed out a one page flyer for the Drive which she had prepared. After discussion, a few changes to the text of the flyer were agreed upon and Kelly offered to make those changes. Bob offered to get copies of the flyer circulated through the schools. Kelly will e-mail the final copy of the flyer to him and the rest of the

Committee. As all the members of the Committee will then have the flyer, everyone can distribute copies to churches, pharmacies, doctors' offices, Red Hook Commons, etc. Jeanne asked if a notice can be put on the Firehouse door. It was suggested that the Drive be advertised on the sign which the Firehouse maintains on Main Street. Dick offered to talk to the Fire Chief about using the sign.

In regard to future drives, Sue mentioned that Hannaford has a basket for change and they give this change to a different charity each month. With the money collected, store cards could then be purchased and given to those in need. This would enable recipients to buy anything they need, including articles such as diapers which cannot be purchased with food stamps. Betty offered to go to Hannaford after the current drive is completed to speak with them about becoming the charity of the month. She will report on the results of this contact at the next meeting. Kelly suggested asking Hannaford if they mind having children soliciting in front of the store. They have been very generous in their donations, but do not like people soliciting in front of their door.

Andy said that while having people collect donations outside of a supermarket is a good idea, the Scouts are now involved in a food drive and doing another one so soon would not be feasible. The same is true for the Interact Club. He said that he will call 4H relative to the next drive effort as it would be ideal for the children to be out in front of the IGA or Hannaford.

SENIOR READING PROGRAM

Andy said that information regarding volunteers for the program should be funneled to him and he will pass the names on to Donna Gaynor, the Principal. He was pleased to report that he already has a considerable list of names. Susan asked if the school had required volunteers to fill out forms and be screened. Andy replied that they had not because the children will not be left unsupervised. Because the program will be a group program and will be supervised, the school is not requiring any background checks. However, he offered to check this again with Donna.

MISSION STATEMENT

Discussion of the mission statement was tabled.

PANDA

Andy said that this project had been tabled for a few meetings; however since Dick Franklin was present, perhaps the Committee could lay out the foundation for the project. Dick said that the Committee can do its own videography and PANDA will let us use their equipment free of charge if the individual doing the videography takes their free training. Dick said that he is willing to take the training. The Committee would then have to do a storyboard and PANDA will put it on the air. However, Dick cautioned that there is a lot involved in putting together this type of project. He suggested that it might be possible to get the media students from Bard to assist. A few years ago, Marist came up and did a similar program.

Judy asked what the Committee wants the community to learn from such a program. Andy replied that it would heighten awareness of the resources available to seniors in

the community. It could be a simple presentation of the groups meeting in the area as well the Expos and other events organized by the Committee.

Susan suggested an interview format and said that if the group can come up with twelve topics, one could be discussed each month. She suggested that one topic might be resources available to an individual returning home from a hospital stay. She said that she could ask Jonah Triebwasser if he would be willing to be the moderator. He has significant acting experience and is doing a radio program for Rotary. However because he is a judge, he did have to obtain permission before he could do the program. The group was in favor of her speaking with Jonah about this. Dick indicated that he could also call Jonah.

Andy said that the group needs to identify different topics for the program. He suggested four or five ideas to begin with. Susan felt it was important to identify some topics before determining who would be the moderator. She suggested prescription drug programs or transportation. Betty suggested that the program could be aired every other month. Judy said that if we have enough topics, it could be aired every month. She felt that the Committee would not have a problem coming up with a list of twelve topics. Susan said that the Committee could get someone from the OFA for one of the programs. She also suggested June Gillespie relative to Social Security. Andy asked the group to come to the next meeting with five ideas for topics. Dick cautioned that the group should pick the first topic carefully as this will help assure the success of the series.

TOWN TRANSPORTATION

Bob said that there is a new person at Red Hook Commons. He will continue to try to get a representative from the Commons to the Transportation Committee and will keep Andy informed.

POTLUCK CREATIVE ARTS

Andy said that he spoke with Mr. Merritt of Potluck Creative Arts and gave him resource information. Jeanne asked that the information relative to the programs proposed by Mr. Merritt be sent to her so that she can get it to the Seniors.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Bob announced that Rose, Kelly and Andy had all been reappointed to the Committee and Andy will continue to be the Chairman. The Committee approved a motion to ask the Town Board to approve of Susan Goldstein as a new member.

NEW BUSINESS: THEFT BY AIDES TO SENIORS

Andy said that he received a letter regarding the Brain Games which detailed a scam whereby aides were robbing the seniors for whom they work. He felt that as a committee, the group should consider putting something together to heighten the awareness of seniors and/or provide strategies for avoiding such problems. He asked the Committee if they had any recommendations. Betty said that the aide should come from a Medicare approved agency and people should check to see if the aide is bonded. Andy

agreed, but said that there could still be problems. Rose said that many seniors do not seek the assistance of aides because they are afraid of having problems with them. Jeanne said that she had a flyer relative to this issue which she read at the Senior meeting. Susan felt that employers also need to be educated.

NEW BUSINESS: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN FOR SENIORS

Andy read an e-mail which he received from Sheila relative to an Emergency Preparedness Plan for Seniors which is being developed by the Rhinebeck Committee on Aging. The project emerged in response to the last ice storm which we experienced in this area and was described in the latest copy of "Growing Older in Rhinebeck" as follows: "The Committee on Aging has a 2009 goal to produce an Emergency Preparedness Plan for Seniors to identify seniors who are at risk in an emergency and to make that list available to Central Hudson and other critical service providers." She said that she is aware that Central Hudson has a form which they send out with one's bill at times allowing a person to identify him or herself as someone who needs special consideration in times of emergency. However, she did not know what other "critical service providers" the Rhinebeck committee had in mind. She felt that perhaps this was an issue which the Committee might want to consider. Rose said that the telephone company offers a similar service. Andy said that when people are in home care, this information is provided to a triage group in case of emergency situations. Andy felt that the Committee should consider taking on a project similar to the Rhinebeck effort.

NEXT MEETING

Andy said that due to scheduling problems, the next meeting cannot be held on the first Thursday of May. After discussion, it was decided that the meeting should be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 9:15 AM in the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin
Secretary, Senior Services Committee