

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

Sept. 24, 2009

**ROLL CALL**

Present:   Andy Kehr, Chairman                   Sheila Franklin, Secretary  
          Jeanne Duntz                           Kelly Mosher  
          Jennifer Fivelsdal                   Rose Rider  
          Richard Franklin

Also Present: Robert McKeon, TB Liaison

Absent:     Betty Bader, Carl Dowden, Susan Goldstein, Judy Walsh

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JULY 9, 2009 MEETING**

Andy noted that the Minutes had been revised to include the full text of the Mission Statement. He asked if there were any further modifications or corrections. Hearing none, Kelly made a motion to accept the revised Minutes. The motion was seconded by Dick and all were in favor.

**PANDA**

Andy reported that Dick had tried several times to contact Bard in regard to this project, but there had been no response. He said that on September 22<sup>nd</sup> he had met with Tim Fitzmaurice and John Swanwick, both of whom are teachers who are involved in the broadcasting program at the High School. He spoke with them regarding filming interviews focused on senior issues. They thought that the idea was excellent and felt that doing a one on one interview would be best because it would simplify the technical requirements. However they said that it would be necessary to find someone who knows how to operate the equipment. As students are required to do a community project, they thought that it would be an excellent opportunity for some of the students to learn these skills. In this regard, Andy will be contacting the National Honors Society to find out how many students are involved in broadcasting. Tim and John also suggested contacting PANDA and asked about the Committee's ideas regarding the topics of the programs.

Andy said that he had spoken with Mark Durand at PANDA. They have two cameras and lighting and recording equipment. They too felt that the best approach would be a one on one interview. That would eliminate the need for editing. Andy asked if anyone at PANDA could help the Committee with taping and they said that they would get back to him. If anyone at the High School is interested, it might be possible for them to film at PANDA. Coordinating time with the station is also an issue and Andy will be speaking with Christina Garza, the Station Manager, in this regard.

Andy will also contact Roy Paisley, who teaches 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. They have a broadcast session at 7:30AM. He felt that the studio might be available sometime

between 2:00 and 3:00 PM. Kelly said that the room is not used for most of the day. If you talk to Roy Paisley, she said, there may be a possibility of using it during the day. Andy will find out if we can use volunteers and whether or not staff must be present. The school has a nice layout; however one of the limiting factors would be the memory capacity of the equipment. It can only handle ten minute segments.

Dick mentioned that he has a DVD shot by Marist in 2006 which is about senior activities in Dutchess County. It features activities in Rhinebeck. He suggested that it would be a good idea for the Committee to watch this DVD and it was agreed that he should bring the DVD to the next meeting.

Dick felt that, in view of the possibility of imminent changes in the healthcare system, Medicare/Medicaid issues should not be among the first topics chosen. AARP programs might be a better choice. He suggested that showing ongoing programs might be better than an interview. He noted that Rhinebeck has many more ongoing activities than Red Hook and said that he gets an RSS feed on Red Hook, but it usually picks up only sports and political activities. After discussion, he offered to forward contact material to the members of the committee. Rose pointed out that the Rhinebeck Newsletter is online and is available to everyone.

The following topics were brought up for consideration by the members of the Committee:

- Recreational activities
- Dial A Ride
- Healthcare reform
- Lifeline
- Senior housing, particularly Red Hook Commons
- The Lighthouse
- Office of the Aging programs, i.e. Brain Games, exercise groups or an interview with an OFA staff member
- Library programs
- Community Action programs
- The Historical Society
- The Read Aloud Program
- Volunteer opportunities for seniors  
(Sheila noted that for this topic United Way might be a resource as they used to publish a "Guide to Volunteer Opportunities". It would have to be determined whether or not they still publish this guide.)

Jeanne suggested the topic of low cost home repair/maintenance. Bob said that Rhinebeck has a program like that for seniors. Rose said that although the program has been well publicized, Rhinebeck has not been able to get people to use it. Potential users have said that they prefer to get information on reliable service providers/businesses. Bob cautioned that the Committee has to be careful not to exclude businesses. Rose said

that the members of the Rhinebeck Rotary Club are providing the services for their program on a voluntary basis. Andy said that he could ask Carl if the Red Hook Rotary would consider undertaking such a program.

Jeanne said that the school used to have a program in which students signed up to do odd jobs. It was like Rent a Kid. Sheila mentioned that the Rhinebeck High School students are required to do community service. It was determined that this is not the case in Red Hook. However the High School does have the IB (International Baccalaureate) program, which has a community service component. Andy said that the High School is looking at a community service requirement; however, it has to be linked to a course curriculum. At this time, the idea has been referred to the High School administration to see if it can be linked to course work. Kelly noted that there had also been discussion at the school regarding doing such a program without having this link.

Kelly said that the biggest problem in filming ongoing programs would be going out and getting clips of people involved in activities. She felt that it would be easier to start by doing something in a studio. Dick said that knowing how to use the equipment is not really a problem and if you are using tapes, there isn't a ten minute limit on segments. The data on the tapes would have to be transferred to a DVD disc and a storyboard would have to be built. Several people would have to volunteer to help. Editing programs would also pose a problem. Dick said that when he had spoken to PANDA, they had said that they wanted half hour or hour programs. Andy responded that they have new equipment which can handle other time segments.

Andy said that PANDA has an editing program, but they will only allow someone who is trained to use it. He said that he would love to have someone shoot segments outside and he is hoping that there will be interested students who have to do community service. However, he conceded that a one on one session would be simpler as it would require less editing. He said that a show could contain several independent segments. He felt that the Committee would have to sell the ideas for these shows to the students and added that he would be willing to write letters of reference to colleges for participating students. Kelly said that Roy Paisley could help in cross referencing students.

Bob asked how often the Committee would plan to produce these programs. Andy felt that it might be done on a monthly basis; however he would also be amenable to a less frequent schedule. Bob offered to speak with someone he knows who has filming experience.

Andy summarized the discussion, saying that Dick will bring in the DVD for the next meeting and will contact Jonah Triebwasser to see if he is still willing to assist in this endeavor. Andy will contact Tim Fitzmaurice and John Swanwick in regard to identifying interested students. Hopefully, he will hear from PANDA about whether or not they have anyone to help with the filming/editing. Bob will be speaking with his contact regarding doing filming. A list of topics to bring to the teachers has been made.

## **FOOD DRIVE**

Andy said he felt it would be nice to do a drive with other groups. He spoke to Carol Guidi, the PAC Chair. In the Spring there is a drive in which the Scouts leave empty paper bags at homes and then pick them up when they have been filled. Such a drive could be done in November and there could be another Firehouse drop off. It could be a joint effort with either the Scouts or the Seniors.

Dick said that the timing is critical and suggested February because there are so many problems during the Thanksgiving to Christmas time frame. The group concurred and agreed to conduct the drive in February. Andy suggested that it might be a Valentine's Day Drive. It was decided that, as the Scouts are already conducting their own drive, the Committee will try to work with another organization. Jeanne offered to speak with the Seniors about it and Andy will contact 4H. The Firehouse will be used as the drop off point again.

## **SENIOR READING PROGRAM**

Andy noted that the brochure for the program is on the website and Donna Gaynor will be including the program in her newsletter. He encouraged the members to contact him if they know of anyone who would be interested in participating in the program. He will funnel the information to Donna. He said that those who participated in the program last year really enjoyed it.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission Statement is now on the website.

## **DIAL A RIDE**

On October 22nd Andy will be attending the semi-annual meeting of the Dial A Ride Board.

## **TOWN TRANSPORTATION**

Bob said that he had found a Red Hook Commons resident who is willing to join the Town Transportation Committee. He said that the Transportation Committee has been working on providing shuttle buses to transport people to events at Bard. He has a flyer which he will be sending to Sheila. She will arrange to have it put on the website. Jeanne and Rose will be announcing the shuttle service at the AARP and Senior Citizens meetings. The next event for which transportation will be provided is a concert at Fisher Hall on October 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be no charge for the concert or for the transportation. Reservations can be made by contacting Bob. There is also a possibility that some Bard students might be going to Red Hook Commons and performing at the facility.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 2010 Schedule of Meetings

It was determined that for the remaining 2009 meetings as well as the 2010 meetings, the Committee will continue to meet on the first Thursday of the month at 9:15 AM. The

only exception will be the October 2009 meeting, which will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Sheila will draw up a schedule of meetings for 2010 and append it to the Minutes.

#### Phase 2 Application for Red Hook Commons

In order to determine whether or not to keep the application on the website, Andy will find out if there are still openings at the facility.

#### Red Hook Commons Representative for Committee

Andy will be going to the Commons to see if he can meet with the residents and/or distribute a flyer in this regard. Bob will ask the individual who volunteered for the Town Transportation Committee if she would be willing to join the Senior Services Committee as well.

#### Newsletter

The Newsletter needs to be updated. For the next meeting, Sheila will bring copies of the current Newsletter so that the Committee can review meeting dates and telephone numbers to assure that they are still current. Sheila noted that the OFA sends e-mails to everyone on their e-mail list regarding topics of interest to seniors. She will forward to the Committee the next e-mail she receives. The OFA e-mails always contain an e-address for those who wish to have their names added to the mailing list.

#### Emergency Preparedness

Dick said that he is on the Town Emergency Preparedness Committee and can be a liaison to that group. He also receives FEMA changes and notices which he can pass to the group as appropriate. As the Emergency Preparedness Committee has not been active, Dick has been acting as liaison with between the Town and the Red Hook Fire Department (of which he is a member). He is currently revising pieces of the Red Hook Emergency Preparedness Plan, using material gleaned from Florida plans. He said that one of the problems is command and control. The Committee can help, he continued, by putting together a list of things which seniors need to have in place during emergencies. He noted that most deaths which occur during emergencies are due to people refusing to leave their pets. Dick is working on locating an area where animals (pets as well as farm animals) can be safely housed during emergencies. The Fairgrounds are a possibility. Andy asked Dick if he can bring in the following information:

- List of what is needed in an emergency situation.
- List of resources.
- Items people should have.

Bob suggested that there should be a telephone number which people could call and get a recording which would give them information about shelters, etc. Dick said that there has to be better communication with the radio stations. As TV would in all likelihood be down, radio would be the primary source of information and radio stations should be broadcasting emergency information. Dick said that the Command Center for Dutchess County, which is in Poughkeepsie, receives information from all over the County. Although this facility does not give information to the general public, the Town

Supervisor can contact the Center and get the most current local information. Andy felt that emergency preparedness would be an excellent topic for a PANDA program and would be his choice for the first effort.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2009 at 9:15 AM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Andy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dick and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin  
Secretary, Senior Services Committee