

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

Oct. 15, 2009

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Betty Bader, Carl Dowden, Jeanne Duntz, Susan Goldstein

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SEPT. 24, 2009 MEETING

Andy made a correction to the Page 3 of the Minutes and then asked if there were any further modifications. Hearing none, Dick made a motion to accept the Minutes as revised. The motion was seconded by Judy and all were in favor.

PANDA

Andy said that yesterday he had spoken to Roy Paisley, the High School Principal, in regard to targeting volunteers. Both the National Honors and International Baccalaureate programs have service requirements. Mr. Paisley said he would follow up on Andy's request. Andy also spoke to Tim Fitzmaurice; however he has not yet heard anything. He also left a message with Mark Durand at PANDA. Sheila said that she had spoken to Bob McKeon and he said that the contact which he had offered to ask about volunteering to help with the filming is not interested in doing so.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Andy suggested that the first show might be on the topic of emergency preparedness. Dick said that there is an emergency preparedness action plan for the town; however it does not address some key issues. Andy asked who is on the town's Emergency Preparedness Committee. Dick said that the Committee has not met for about a year. Andy asked who he can contact in regard to this Committee. Dick offered to make some phone calls and find out.

People do not feel that we have any risk in Red Hook, Dick continued. However, the last ice storm should have been a lesson. In a national emergency, he said, all the resources will go to the southern part of the County and to New York City. We have to be prepared to deal with that. In an emergency, the local shelters can house 1,525 people; but there are over 11,000 people in our community. Under State mandate, he said, Bard will be told what they are required to do in an emergency. They have a number of areas which could prove useful in an emergency.

Andy said he thought that there was always one central location for people to go to, perhaps the school. Dick replied that this issue was not addressed in the town document.

What I was asked to do, he said, was to develop a plan for animal management. It has been determined that a lot of deaths occurred in New Orleans because people would not leave their pets. As a farming community, we have special problems in regard to animals. Returning to the question about the use of the school, Dick said that there is a school plan but it has not been determined how many people can be housed in the school.

The Town Supervisor, Dick continued, is command and control for the town. It is her responsibility to notify the County and the State in an emergency. Alternatively, the County or State can notify her that there is an emergency. Although our Committee would not be involved, we can put in place procedures to deal with seniors. Dick said that he has used the Florida guidelines in his work and within those guidelines there is a section regarding seniors. Federal and state command and control are under FEMA and the Citizens Corps. In order to get help from FEMA, there must be people in the community who have taken FEMA courses and obtained course certifications.

Andy asked about the section on seniors in the Florida guidelines. Dick said that there is a list of things which seniors should have in their homes. Rose suggested that the Committee might put together a pamphlet which would include such a list. Dick said that in the Florida material there are also sections on pet care in an emergency, home safety and home hazards, checking up on seniors, radio frequencies carrying emergency information, etc.

Rose brought up the question of where supplies can be obtained in an emergency. Dick said that a secure place must be specified where people can bring their pets. The availability of drinking water for pets is an issue because they will not drink chlorinated water. The question of the possibility of looting was raised, as it would be known that people are in shelters and not in their homes. Andy suggested calling upon the Red Hook Police to come to a meeting and tell the Committee about their emergency plans.

Rose asked who sets out guidelines when a state of emergency is declared, e.g. where the shelters are, etc. Dick responded that this is the purview of the Town Supervisor. Rose asked how seniors would know if, for example, the Fire House were designated as a shelter and was open to the community. Andy identified three types of problems:

1. Need for a resource list, including where people would obtain information.
2. What kind of supplies should people have available and how often they need of to check those supplies, e.g. radio batteries if they do not have a hand crank radio.
3. Pet issues.

Dick said that people should have a hand crank radio tuned to NOAH and emergency channels. He said that we, as a community, should understand that we will be alone for 72 hours. In an emergency, nothing will get to us for at least three days. Andy asked if there was a state of emergency during the last ice storm. Rose said that one would not know that if the power is out. Andy asked if there is a telephone number to call. Dick

replied that calls cannot go to the Command Center. There must be a local number to call. Andy said that in North Carolina there are specific telephone numbers to call which offer instructions relative to the emergency. Rose said that such a telephone line would be overwhelmed very quickly. Dick noted that cordless phones die in a power outage. Rose said that people should always keep at least one land line. Dick said that there are a number of HAM radio operators in the area and a network of HAM radio operators could be pulled together. Most such operators have generators; however fuel needs to be available for those generators.

Rose asked what kind of radio should one have and where should one call. Dick replied that he will bring a list of things which people should have to the next meeting. Andy asked if, instead, he could e-mail that list to the members of the Committee. Dick agreed to do so. He said that people should have a radio, either battery or hand crank, and a week's worth of food and water. Judy suggested that if people need help in purchasing these items, perhaps the Committee could provide guidance. Some people may not know what a hand crank radio is. She suggested that the Community Action Center might be a good place for people to get information. Andy suggested going to the Police. Dick said that their focus will be on safety, traffic and crime. The Fire Department, on the other hand, will have a broader role.

Andy said that 911 will probably be the first place people will call and that perhaps the Committee could guide them to a more productive source of information. Dick said that 911 will probably have a list of things people should have. They do not refer only to the Police or the Fire Department; it is an emergency line. Dick said that people should not call the Police and reminded the Committee that the Red Hook Fire Department is a volunteer organization. He said he would have a meeting with the Fire Department about emergency procedures.

Andy said that if the Committee gets the list before the next meeting, they can start thinking about a brochure. Then they can discuss what should be listed and get help from other committees who have worked on these problems. When the brochure has been developed, it can be put on the town website.

FOOD DRIVE

Andy said that the Food Drive will be held in February. He has spoken to Mr. McLord at the local 4H Golden Fleece Club. Mr. McLord is going to contact Dutchess County 4H. It might be possible to get all the clubs in the area to participate. In addition, the Seniors would be participating.

SENIOR READING PROGRAM

Andy said that on October 6th he met with the Town Board and asked for volunteers for the program. Rose said that someone from AARP tried to call twice and had no response. Andy offered to call the office to see if these messages had been received. He asked that the information about the person be forwarded to him so that he can give it to Donna Gaynor.

DIAL A RIDE

On October 22nd Andy will be attending the semi-annual meeting of the Dial A Ride Board and will have feedback for the Committee at the November meeting.

RED HOOK COMMONS

Andy said that the Phase 2 Application which is on the committee’s page on the town website should remain there as there are still openings. Andy is planning to go to the Commons to see if any of the residents are interested in joining the Committee.

BROCHURE

Copies of the brochure were handed out and Andy said that the information should be checked for accuracy and updates should be made where necessary. Review of the pages of the brochure was assigned as follows:

- Andy Pages 8, 9 and 10
- Jennifer Page 5
- Judy Pages 2 and 3
- Rose Pages 4, 7 and 11
- Betty Medicare information on back page (Andy will e-mail her to ask her to do this.)

NEW BUSINESS

Sheila e-mailed Andy an OFA bulletin about the Hire A Teen program. Rose said that three or four years ago that program was not available in Red Hook. Andy will call to find out the current status of the program. If the program is not available in Red Hook, he will ask what they need in order to make it available. He will also bring the program to the attention of the High School. The high school students in Rhinebeck are working within the Rotary program. The issue of liability was raised, but Dick said that homeowners insurance should cover that.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on November 5, 2009 at 9:15 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Judy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Rose and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin
Secretary, Senior Services Committee