

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

Nov. 5, 2009

**ROLL CALL**

Present:	Andy Kehr, Chairman	Sheila Franklin, Secretary
	Betty Bader	Susan Goldstein
	Carl Dowden	Kelly Mosher
	Jeanne Duntz	Rose Rider
	Richard Franklin	Judy Walsh
Absent:	Jennifer Fivelsdal	

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:27 A.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, OCT. 15, 2009 MEETING**

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

**PANDA**

Andy said that he has spoken to Roy Paisley, the High School Principal, and Tim Fitzmaurice in regard to targeting volunteers. Both the National Honor Society and International Baccalaureate programs have service requirements. He has also asked Mr. Dombrowski, who is in charge of the Honors program, if he could recommend any students who would be interested in assisting with the program in any capacity. Andy is waiting to hear from a student named Matt McDonald.

Dick brought in a DVD on senior programs in Dutchess County which was made by Marist College. However, viewing of the DVD was postponed until the next meeting because of time constraints.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Andy said that emergency preparedness would be an interesting topic for the first PANDA show; however, a brochure should be prepared before that. Dick handed out a packet of material culled from the data he has been reviewing for the town Emergency Preparedness Committee. Carl asked if a list has been compiled of people who need shelter in an emergency. Susan said that Central Hudson has a list of people who are on ventilators and other types of medical equipment requiring power. Of course, this is a voluntary list and includes only those people who have chosen to contact Central Hudson to be put on their list. Dick said that the Fire Department has a list of people who would be in need of help in an emergency. Andy asked how they keep that list updated. Dick said that the Fire Department tried to accomplish that by getting people in the community to fill out a form; however they refused to do so. Kelly commented that people feel that they make themselves vulnerable if they admit that they are bed bound.

Carl said that the High School has been designated as a shelter when an emergency is declared. However, the school did not have a generator and Rotary obtained a generator for them which is capable of powering the entire facility. People need to be told that in case of a state of emergency with an associated power outage, the High School has power and they can get there. There should be a contact telephone number which will offer people help in getting to the school. Betty said that in the past the Fire House has provided services to the community in emergency situations; however they did not shelter people overnight. In response to Jeanne's question regarding what radio station people should be listening to in an emergency, Dick handed out a list with contact information for local stations.

Questions were raised regarding what constitutes an emergency and how decisions are made once an emergency is declared. Dick said that FEMA has established a hierarchical structure which starts with the Town Supervisor and moves down to the Fire Department, the Highway Department and the Police Department. Carl said that after the Town Supervisor has declared an emergency, someone has to call the Red Cross so that they can bring supplies (cots, blankets, pillows, etc.) to the school. It takes the Red Cross from one to one and a half hours to do this. The Red Hook Rotary would like to have a trailer here, he continued, which would be stocked with those supplies in order to eliminate the delay. He stressed that people should not be directed to a shelter until it is determined that the Red Cross has set the area up appropriately.

Carl suggested that perhaps the Committee's goal should be to put something together which is local. Susan suggested that in the Spring perhaps volunteers could go from door to door with a packet of material. Andy said that he has spoken with Carol Guidi, who is a Pack Chair for the Boy Scouts, and they are interested in helping with an emergency preparedness project in conjunction with the Senior Services Committee. Both Carol and Andy thought it appropriately integrates the Scouts' concept of "always be prepared."

Betty felt that the issue of emergency preparedness needs to be addressed now so that if we have bad ice storms during the winter, people will know where to go. Susan suggested that the Committee send announcements to PANDA in addition to putting together a packet. Dick said that he has a list of all emergency telephone numbers as well as the number of people which can be accommodated by each of the local churches. This information is on disc as well as on line. In an emergency, he continued, the Red Cross issues an announcement in conjunction with the town as to where people should go for shelter. Carl said that the town plan lists all of the churches, none of which has a generator and it does not list the school, which has a generator. Kelly explained that the school has an emergency plan; however it pertains only to how the school will maintain the safety of the students.

Kelly asked how often the town's Disaster Preparedness Plan is updated. About every two years, Dick responded. He said that he is working with the plan from the University of Florida which includes a plan for the elderly and disabled, a disaster supply kit list and information regarding first aid and food supplies. He is going to reformat that

material to make it relevant to our community. Susan noted that no one from Northern Dutchess is on the FEMA committee in Poughkeepsie. That committee allocates FEMA resources coming into Poughkeepsie. Dick noted that the Dutchess County Association for Senior Citizens has shut down the senior program at the Rhinebeck Reformed Church. It was determined that this is an RSVP program and that other RSVP programs have also been shut down.

Andy suggested that the Committee start the project in a small way, targeting information on where to go, what to have on hand and who to contact. He envisioned this information being printed on one sheet of paper, front and back. There should be general information as well as information specifically for seniors. However, the Committee must decide what information is to be included and present it in a user friendly manner. Susan said that the information which Dick distributed is fantastic; it just needs to be edited so that it becomes more relevant to our town. Rose said that she will speak to Sue Crane and see what information she has.

Andy suggested that the information provided by Dick be used as a template and asked how the Committee wants to assign the work of developing the brochure. Susan suggested that it be booklet size with no more than two pages devoted to each category. Andy suggested a bulleted, one page document which can be expanded later. It might be distributed via a mailing, PANDA and the website. Susan delineated five categories: a telephone contact list; a supply list; where to go for what; what information to keep on hand and how to meet special needs. Carl said that the information should be relevant to major storms where the whole town is shut down, e.g. a major ice storm or other community wide disaster.

Andy said that the document should be short and concise and the Committee can expand upon it later. Susan said that the town's water bills will go out on the first of January and if the Committee obtains permission from Hank VanParys, the Chairman of the Water Board, it can add a page to their mailing. Carl said that if the brochure goes out to senior groups and is mailed with the town, village and Tivoli water bills, most people will receive it. As a member of the Water Board, Dick offered to find out when that board would have to receive the information in order to send it out with the January bill.

After discussion, the Committee decided that the scope of this endeavor should be limited to information which pertains specifically to seniors. Betty offered to write a draft. Carl said that the Committee could state that the High School has been designated as a shelter by the Red Cross and that people should check to see if it has been set up as such. He stressed that the High School is not available until there is a community wide disaster. Dick noted that in an emergency situation, the town would be without help for 72 hours; both New York State and the Federal government have published that fact.

Andy concluded the discussion by saying that after Betty has written the draft, she will send it to the Committee members as an e-mail.

**DIAL A RIDE**

Andy attended the semi-annual meeting of the Dial A Ride Board on October 22nd and they were very happy to have a representative from the northern part of the County. They reported an increase in ridership.

**BROCHURE**

The members of the Committee were asked to e-mail additions/corrections to Sheila and she will keep Andy informed of which sections have been reviewed.

**HIRE A TEEN**

Andy has attempted to telephone Laura Schneider regarding the possibility of having this program in our area, but has not been able to reach her. Although he left his telephone number, he has not yet heard from her. Carl said that the Rhinebeck Rotary Club, in conjunction with Rebuilding Together, has a program which does minor home repairs for seniors. He said that there is a possibility of doing such a program as it has been mentioned, but not discussed. He will discuss the idea with Rotary.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on December 3, 2009 at 9:15 AM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Betty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Andy and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin  
Secretary, Senior Services Committee