

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE
Dec. 3, 2009

ROLL CALL

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, NOV. 5, 2009 MEETING

Andy asked if there were changes or other modifications to the Minutes. One change, suggested by Andy, had already been made. Carl added several other clarifications. Dick then made a motion to accept the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Carl and all were in favor.

PANDA

Andy said that he has not heard from Matt McDonald or the other student whose name he had been given as possible volunteers. It was acknowledged that the school is very busy now and this is a difficult time to find someone experienced to handle the technical end of this project. Andy said that he has a camcorder and suggested that if a basic storyboard were developed and questions were prepared for the interviewer, perhaps he could tape a program. Dick said that there was a lot of turmoil now relative to Medicare and health issues. Andy agreed that health care issues could be explored later and suggested that emergency preparedness should be the topic for the first program.

Rose said that at present PANDA is asking for help doing their taping. They have major problems and need time to find solutions. She therefore asked that the PANDA project be put on the back burner. Andy felt that if the Committee were to complete their emergency preparedness sheet, a simple show be put together. Dick agreed with Rose. He felt that the Committee should wait a few months as the town Emergency Preparedness Committee will be reorganizing. A consensus was reached that the project should be tabled.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Andy said that the intent of the Committee is to put out a simple, single sheet for seniors with basic information. At present, the town's Emergency Preparedness Committee is not functioning and it will therefore take time for them to redo their emergency plan. We would like to move forward with this project, Andy continued; however we must make sure that any information we put out is accurate.

Rose said that the details can be obtained from the materials which Dick has already submitted to the Committee. Dick referenced the Florida material, saying that there is

already a listing of the things which people should have at home. Rose said basic topics could be: where do you go; is your pet prepared and what should you have at home at all times. She praised the material which Dick had provided, saying that it lists everything which is important.

Betty said that she thought that the informational sheet was to be for a snowstorm or a power outage. Carl explained that the Committee had decided that the sheet should indicate what people should do in order to be prepared at all times. If we call this emergency preparedness information, it will not refer specifically to short term versus long term emergencies.

Dick suggested that the handout which he had distributed to the Committee be modified and condensed into a small pamphlet. All the information is there, he said. One just has to pick and choose. Andy said that he was envisioning the end result being just one page. The next meeting, he said, will be on January 7th. He asked if the Committee could have something put together for that meeting. Dick offered to take on the job and agreed to e-mail something to the Committee before the next meeting. Andy said that Betty had done a draft and she can provide that to Dick. Rose said that Sue Crane is interested in getting something together and Dick said that he would try to get an appointment with her.

Betty asked how the Committee would be distributing the information. Carl suggested Red Hook Commons and the various senior groups which the Committee has contacted before. Dick said that PANDA could put a list on their scroll. He also mentioned leaving copies of the sheet at the Town Hall and the Village Hall. Andy said that it could be put on the website and Jennifer suggested kidmail.

Carl asked if the Committee knows when a location officially becomes a functioning designated shelter. Is it when there is a declaration of a state of emergency? Does the Town Supervisor or New York State announce a state of emergency? Or does it become official when the Red Cross is called in and prepares the location? Dick replied that the Town Supervisor has to initiate the action. Carl asked how does a person know when the High School, for example, is open as a shelter? Rose noted that the Town has listed the churches as shelters and that is not practical. Andy asked Dick whether the High School is a designated shelter and how that designation becomes effective. Dick said that the school is not the only emergency location; the first place people turn to is the Fire House. It is very spacious and has kitchen facilities. Andy said he will speak to Paul Finch, the School Superintendent, about the school and Dick will talk to Town Supervisor, Sue Crane.

Andy summarized the discussion, saying that Dick will cut and paste the information which he has and develop a draft of the informational sheet. It must be short and concise. Betty will provide Dick with her draft. Dick will speak to Sue Crane and Andy will speak to Paul Finch about the process by which the school becomes open for emergencies.

BROCHURE

Andy reviewed the page assignments listed in the October Minutes. Sheila reported that she has received information from Betty, Judy and Andy. Jennifer said that she checked Page 4 and there are no changes. Rose gave Sheila a new write up on AARP to replace what is currently in the brochure. On page 10, Andy is going to add information on The Terraces. He will also check whether "Willcare" on Page 9 is correct or should be "Wellcare".

HIRE A TEEN

Andy spoke with Laura Schneider regarding Hire A Teen and learned that it operates via teams which register with this program. When people contact the program, the program contacts the teams and agreement is reached on wages, which are not less than minimum wage. The children are not screened and liability relative to any problems which might occur would have to be covered under the homeowner's insurance. Carl asked what organization Laura works for. Andy replied that he believed it might be the Office for the Aging, but he was not sure. He said that if they do not screen the kids, he would be hesitant to endorse the program. Andy agreed. Carl offered to speak to the Red Hook Rotary about initiating this type of program.

FOOD DRIVE

Andy said that the what the Committee did for the last food drive worked very well. The dates for the drive were set for February 9th and February 16th. Betty will talk to the President of the senior group about their participation. Andy said that the drop off times for the last drive were between 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M., the hours during which the seniors meet. He said that if the dates were changed, the old flyer could used. Betty noted that the food had been donated to Community Action last time. Sheila mentioned the effectiveness of the use of the Fire House sign for advertising. The posters, use of PANDA and publication of notices in the newspapers were all suggested. It was decided that PR should start about two weeks before the drive and that it should be put on the web after the next meeting. Andy will e-mail Kelly Mosher to see if she still has the previous flyer.

READ ALOUD PROGRAM

Andy asked the Committee to encourage people to volunteer for this program.

NEW BUSINESS

LOCAL SENIOR PROGRAMS

Andy reported that at the Town Board meeting he announced the dates for two senior programs, a Medicare program at the Poughkeepsie Galleria and a program on Financial Planning and Long Term Care Insurance at the St. Francis Atrium. He asked Sheila to have this information posted on the website.

Andy said that Sue Crane had asked if we could get a representative from the Office for the Aging to do an informational meeting in Red Hook. Betty said that OFA does counseling locally as requested and she could make arrangements for an informational meeting. Betty explained that the OFA gives two types of programs, one for people who

are going to become eligible for Medicare and another to update people on Medicare news. Andy asked her to find out what dates in January might be possible. The meeting could be held at Red Hook Commons or at the Town Hall. Carl thought that people might be reluctant to go to Red Hook Commons and favored the use of the Town Hall.

SENIOR PROGRAMMING AT THE RECREATION PARK

Andy said that Doug Strawinski of the town Rec Park Committee had approached him to ask for suggestions for senior activities at the Rec Park. A discussion ensued and the following suggestions were made: musical performances; movie night; walks; games such as chess or checkers; bocce. Rose suggested offering coffee or tea at activities. Andy asked the Committee to consider ideas for Spring activities. Right now the Park is used mostly by kids, he said. The intent of the Rec Park Committee is to offer outdoor activities to the seniors. In relation to the discussion of having a bocce court built, Andy noted that the budget of the Senior Services Committee is about \$350. He hoped that a donation might be made if this project were undertaken.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on January 7, 2009 at 9:15 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin
Secretary, Senior Services Committee