

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mar. 4, 2010

ROLL CALL

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman Sheila Franklin, Secretary
 Betty Bader Kelly Mosher
 Judy Walsh

Also Present: Micki Strawinski, TB Liaison; Doug Strawinski, Chairman, Rec Park
 Commission

Absent: Carl Dowden, Jeanne Duntz, Jennifer Fivelsdal, Richard Franklin,
 Susan Goldstein, Rose Rider

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:24 A.M. and welcomed Doug Strawinski, Chairman of the Rec Park Commission. He handed out his latest report to the Town Board and announced that he had prepared an Agenda for the meeting and would be doing so prior to each future meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, FEB. 4, 2010 MEETING

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

FOOD DRIVE

Andy said that he had spoken to Sophia Miele at Community Action and they had received approximately \$400 worth of donations on Feb. 9th. Referring to the fact that the Firehouse was closed due to the storm on the second day of the Drive, viz. Feb. 16th, Andy said that in the future the Committee will have to set out strategies to deal with bad weather. Betty suggested having a rain date or not holding the event during the winter. Andy said that future announcements would have to refer to inclement weather as well as the closing of the schools. Betty said that school closings might not be noted by those who do not have children in school. Andy said that there is a telephone number to call for school closings. Kelly said that there was school on that day. Andy concluded that in future, Fred Cartier could be contacted to see if the Firehouse has been closed and language regarding a rain date could be added to all future ads.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Sheila said that Dick e-mailed the document which he had prepared but did not receive any suggestions or changes. Judy presented a copy of an article regarding emergency preparedness which she had seen in the Poughkeepsie Journal. Micki said that the emergency shelters should be identified. She suggested that the municipalities should maintain a directory of senior citizens so that they could be contacted when emergencies occur. In response to Andy's question regarding how such information could be obtained, Judy said that Dick has a comprehensive local database. Doug said that it

might be accomplished by using the Star program data. Micki suggested that this might be a door to door project for the Bard Leadership Program.

Andy wrapped up the discussion by saying that that Dick should be asked to review the article which Judy had presented to see if it contains anything which should be added to his document. If there are no changes, he will bring the document to the Town Board.

SENIOR PROGRAMMING AT THE RECREATION PARK

Doug Strawinski, Chairman of the Rec Park Commission, said that he had discussed the last Senior Services Committee meeting with his group. They would like to start something immediately, a Walk Day or perhaps a Senior Olympics. He felt that bocce and horseshoes would be possible, but would take longer to plan than a walking event. Micki mentioned the miniature golf course at the bowling alley.

Doug said that the Park Commission has the funding to hire a Director to deal with senior activities although the salary would be small, about \$600. They would prefer a senior. This person would concentrate on senior events and direct them. Andy said that the event could be advertised at senior groups and asked Betty if she could speak to her group about it. She suggested that Doug speak to the group and he said he would be happy to do so. Betty will be making the necessary arrangements, possibly for March 9th or 16th. She also suggested contacting Red Hook Commons.

Andy asked if a date and time could be set up for the event. Doug said that as soon as the weather changes, the Commission will have staff at the park. Andy asked if a member of the Committee could come to the event and Judy said that she could be available. Doug asked if the exercise group could be held at the park at times. Betty said that she would have to check with the Office for the Aging. She will let Andy know about this via e-mail.

EMERGENCY DRILL AT RED HOOK COMMONS

Andy said that he had received an e-mail from Micki regarding Nicholas LaCourte, a resident of Red Hook Commons, who said that there were people on the second floor of the facility who were in wheelchairs and/or had disabilities. He had agreed to come to the meeting and talk about issues at Red Hook Commons. Judy felt that it would be good to have a contact from that facility who could inform the Committee about issues there. As Mr. LaCourte had not yet arrived, Andy said that he would contact him and invite him to come to the next meeting.

MEDICARE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Andy said that he had contacted Nina Lynch and Sue McCann and had set the meeting up for April 20th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Town Hall. Nina said that her organization might advertise the event. It will be targeted at people who are getting ready to go on Medicare. He asked Sheila to find out if Dick can arrange for the use of the Firehouse sign to advertise the event. Andy asked Sheila to post the event on the town website and PANDA and send an announcement to the newspapers.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

Andy made contact with Pat Anderson and Colleen Mooney, who administer this program. In order to conduct the program they need not only space but printers, computers and access to the internet. Those facilities are not available in Red Hook. They said that they could try to do a Super Saturday where they come with laptop computers; however, they still need printers. Town Supervisor Sue Crane said that the town does not have enough equipment to accomodate them.

Presently the AARP Tax Aid Foundation provides free tax assistance every Thursday from 9:00 AM until noon at the Starr Library in Rhinebeck. Appointments must be made in advance and are scheduled every hour. Appointments can be made by calling (845) 418-4821 or by e-mailing cmooneytaxaide@gmail.com. Andy asked Sheila to have this information posted on the website.

Andy said that Red Hook has been considered a site for the program in the past, but there was concern that there might not be enough interest to warrant scheduling the program. Betty felt that you have to build up interest over time. Sheila said that a free tax assistance program has been offered at the Dutch Reformed Church in Rhinebeck. Andy asked that Sheila find out who sponsored that program and let him know.

NEW BUSINESS

REAPPOINTMENTS

Andy said that Jennifer, Betty, Carl and Jeanne were due for reappointment. He said that he had contacted everyone but Jeanne and they all want to continue to serve on the Committee. He will be contacting Jeanne.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on April 1, 2010 at 9:15 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Judy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kelly and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin
Secretary, Senior Services Committee