

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

April 22, 2010

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also Present: Micki Strawinski, TB Liaison; Doug Strawinski, Chairman, Rec Park  
                  Commission; Nick LaCourte, Red Hook Commons resident.

Absent:    Betty Bader Jeanne Duntz, Susan Goldstein, Judy Walsh

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:37 A.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MAR. 4, 2010 MEETING**

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

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Andy asked if Dick had received any changes to the material he had prepared. As no changes had been received, Andy felt that the material was now set and could be put on the Town website. He suggested that Betty and Jean could bring the material to the senior groups and Rose could bring copies to the AARP. Carl will bring some to Rotary. Nick said that the seniors at Red Hook Commons would like to be informed about what is going on in town and he offered to bring copies there, distribute them and urge the residents to read the material. It was suggested that copies of the material be left at the Town Hall, the Village Hall, the libraries, the bookstore, Nekos and other local stores. Andy will go to Copy Cat and price out making 300 copies of the material. Dick will e-mail the final version to Andy.

Dick offered to generate a PDF file which he will put on a disk and bring to Sue McCann at the Town Hall so that people can print it off. He will also talk to Dick Wambach about putting it on the website in a format which can be downloaded. When putting it on PANDA was suggested, Micki asked whether it might be possible for Dick to do a half hour interview. Dick was amenable to developing a half hour presentation. Andy said that he would call PANDA and try to set this up.

Andy asked Nick if he would like to become a member of the committee or serve as a liaison to Red Hook Commons as many of the issues dealt with by the Committee would be of interest to the residents. Nick was amenable to serving in either capacity. Andy said that he would propose to the Board that Nick become a member. As he was unfamiliar with the Town website, Micki offered to go to Red Hook Commons and show Nick how to access and use it.

## **SENIOR PROGRAMMING AT THE RECREATION PARK**

Doug Strawinski, Chairman of the Rec Park Commission, said that he had spoken to the Senior group at the Firehouse about senior programming at the park. He told them that he would value their input as the program develops. They expressed interest in having horseshoes and shuffleboard available. Doug said that he would like to see a group from Red Hook Commons utilize the program and he offered to work with Nick in this regard. He will include information about the program in the Rec Park Commission's activities brochure. Nick said that he would put something about the program in the Red Hook Commons May Newsletter. He said that there is an exercise group of about 15 people at the Commons and he will make an announcement there about the program. Dick asked him if there is a computer at Red Hook Commons which people could use to e-mail and to obtain information. Nick said that he would look into that.

Doug said that the Commission had gotten Irene Rock to run the program. The Rec Park Commission will work directly with her. He would like to see the program start as soon as possible and run one day a week for the whole summer. He can have staff available. After discussion about which day would be best, it was decided to start the program on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. with a walk and continue it on a weekly basis. Participants should go to the north entrance of the Park on Fruitbud Lane, off Linden Avenue and meet at the Pavilion. Nick asked if the track is a mile track. Doug said that people can walk as far as they wish and return and there is also a smaller walking loop.

PR for the program will include notices: on the Town website; in the Poughkeepsie Journal and Kingston Freeman; a listing in the events calendar of the Poughkeepsie Journal and on the Firehouse sign (if the Fire Department is amenable). Dick offered to ask the Fire Department about the sign, but said that his schedule would not permit him to be available to help put it up. He also offered to look into kits to make a sign which could be used by the Town Hall to publicize the various events/meetings which are held there.

Andy offered to put together a simple flyer for the program. The contact for the program will be John Kuhn at the Rec Commission, 758-4625. In case of inclement weather, the program will be cancelled for the week.

## **EMERGENCY DRILL AT RED HOOK COMMONS**

Andy said that Nick LaCourte, a resident of Red Hook Commons, had contacted Micki at the beginning of February with concerns about the safety of residents at the Commons. He said that there were people living on the second floor who need walkers/wheelchairs. The Superintendent, he said, is a part time employee and does not have enough time to be a contact person and the Project Manager has many duties and also cannot serve as a contact person.

Nick voiced two areas of concern: EMT response time and entry. He questioned how an emergency team would enter an apartment if the occupant were incapacitated. He also felt that there was no fire emergency plan and was interested in arranging for a mock fire

drill to be held at the facility. A complicating factor is that there is a constant change of residents (due to health issues/moving) and people would not know what to do if the elevators were out of order (as they would be if there were a fire). Dick said that the Fire Department conducts at least two major drills a year. Carl said that the Fire Chief should be involved. He thought that the Fire Department must have been involved when the project was built and that the state must have a plan for these contingencies. Dick confirmed that the Fire Department was initially involved.

Nick asked if something could be put on the doors to signify that the occupant is in need of assistance. Dick said that there are state approved stickers which can be put on a door to identify people who are disabled and he would try to get information about obtaining them. There are also evacuation signs. He said that while disabled individuals should not be housed on the second floor, there is equipment which could be used to get them out in an emergency.

Nick was interested in trying to arrange a meeting with the Fire Chief so that a Fire Drill could be arranged and plans could be made to provide assistance to those in need of it. Andy said that the Committee could be a part of this process, but could not be the driving force. The management of the facility must take responsibility and the Committee can work with them to identify community resources.

After discussion it was decided that the first step should be to try to set up a meeting with Ken Kearney, the Manager, a representative from the Village (as the Commons is in the Village), the Fire Department and the Police Department. It was suggested that the following people/agencies be invited: one of the Village trustees, perhaps Dave Seymour; Dick as a representative of the Fire Department; Micki as a Town Board liaison; the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Management; Steve Cole, the Building Inspector and Rob Latimer of Northern Dutchess Paramedics. Andy said that the meeting could take place at the Town Hall.

Andy said that the first step would be get an indication from the management that they want to meet to discuss the issues. Nick said that he would like to write a letter containing a summary of what was discussed at this meeting and concluding with an indication that he would like to arrange a meeting at which he and various community representatives would be present. Nick said that he would submit the letter for Andy, Dick and Micki to read. Carl stressed that it has to come from Nick as a resident to the management. The real parties in this issue, he said, are you as the resident and the management. Micki suggested that perhaps she and Dave Seymour could also sign the letter.

#### **MEDICARE INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

Andy said that thirteen people had attended the meeting and Nina Lynch gave an excellent presentation. Everyone appreciated the information and most people said that they had seen the Firehouse sign. All those who attended were about to qualify for Medicare.

## **REAPPOINTMENTS**

Andy said that he had received copies of letters of reappointment for Carl, Betty, Jeanne, Judy and Jennifer. Micki said that this is a ten member committee and there are already ten members. If the Committee wants Nick to become a member, they can vote to add an eleventh member; however, she also suggested contacting Susan Goldstein as she has missed several meetings. Andy will call her to see if she is interested in maintaining her membership.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FUTURE PRESENTATIONS**

Andy suggested that future presentations might include such topics as Elder Law, aging in place and social security. He announced that Hudson Valley Home Matters is looking at the issues involved in helping seniors remain at home. They are a small but growing local non-profit agency. The Rhinebeck Committee on Aging is sponsoring a presentation by this agency at the Rhinebeck Town Hall on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. Andy asked Sheila to have this announcement posted on the website.

### **PANDA**

Andy said that at the Medicare meeting he talked with Cathy O'Connor, one of the attendees, about the PANDA project which the Committee had previously discussed. Cathy has produced several PANDA programs and she offered to help. Andy noted that this solved the problem which the Committee had previously had with this project, viz. the lack of someone to handle the technical end of the programming. Cathy suggested doing a Medicare 101 program with Nina Lynch. Micki asked Nick to check and see whether Channel 23 is available at the Commons.

### **KEY COMMUNICATOR**

Andy said that the vote for the school budget will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> and it will be a big issue due to the economy. One of the key concerns, he said, is that the people understand the issues, e.g. what do the increases mean. The schools have developed a new system which involves key communicators disseminating information. Andy said that he offered to have the Committee become a key communicator to seniors. The objective would be to make sure that seniors have all the information they need to understand the issues.

There will be a Public Hearing on the budget on May 6<sup>th</sup> and another opportunity for input when it is brought before the Town Board. Carl noted that in the past inaccurate information has been disseminated. Andy asked the group to encourage people to go to the meetings and get the information. He will be receiving information next week and will get that information to the Committee members.

### **RED HOOK CLEAN UP DAY**

Micki said that there were about 60 to 70 volunteers, mostly children. It was a successful event and they will do it again in September.

### **SENIOR FOOD COOPERATIVE**

Carl said that Community Action has a program like this. Dick pointed out that their prices are not usually lower than the sale prices at the local supermarkets. Sheila said that they also require participants to purchase packages with specific contents, not all of which may be desirable to everyone. The quantities are also larger than seniors, who are usually buying for one or two people, may want. Dick said that at one time he and his neighbors formed a cooperative and this enabled them to pick and choose what they wanted. Micki said that Bard has a Community Garden which is free and open to all.

### **DIAL A RIDE**

Andy said that there is now an 800 telephone number for Dial A Ride. The toll number has been eliminated. Every participant in Red Hook has been notified and given the new number.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Andy asked the Committee to explore the possibility of meeting in the evening. He felt that this might be advantageous to those members of the Committee who are working. For the time being, however, the time will remain the same and the next meeting will be held on May 13, 2010 at 9:15 AM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin  
Secretary, Senior Services Committee