

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

June 3, 2010

ROLL CALL

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman Richard Franklin
 Betty Bader Kelly Mosher
 Jeanne Duntz Rose Rider
 Jennifer Fivelsdal Judy Walsh

Also Present: Nick LaCourte, Red Hook Commons resident

Absent: Carl Dowden, Susan Goldstein

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:20 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MAY 13, 2010 MEETING

As there were no changes or other modifications to the Minutes, Dick made a motion to accept them as written. The motion was seconded by Betty and all were in favor.

SENIOR PROGRAMMING AT THE RECREATION PARK

Andy said that Doug Strawinski reported that ten or eleven people came to the walk last week. He said that as the program develops, the Committee can discuss adding other activities. He thanked Doug for being the catalyst for this program and asked the members to spread the word about it to friends and organizations.

EMERGENCY DRILL AT RED HOOK COMMONS

Andy said that he had spoken to Deputy Mayor Ed Blundell and he is awaiting further information. He said that he will look over the letter, make contacts and get back to the Committee. Dick informed the Committee that Town Supervisor Sue Crane has named Patrick Hildenbrand to represent the village Police Force on the Disaster Preparedness Committee.

PANDA

Andy said that he had spoken to Cathy O'Connor about the Committee, but her schedule does not permit her to attend meetings. Therefore, Andy will meet with her and Nina Lynch. They will focus on a Medicare 101 presentation for the first program as Cathy feels that this would be valuable to a large number of people. The second program would be on emergency preparedness. Dick asked if Cathy had seen the emergency preparedness document yet and Andy responded that she hadn't. Sheila will e-mail the document to her. Dick asked to be included when Andy meets with Cathy and Andy said that he will let Dick know when he arranges the meeting.

KEY COMMUNICATOR PROGRAM

Andy thanked everyone for their participation in this program. He felt that the program had a considerable impact on the recent budget vote and said that it will continue when the school year starts in September.

RESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER SUSAN GOLDSTEIN

Andy announced the Susan Goldstein will not be able to continue as a committee member. She expressed continuing interest in the Committee, but said that her schedule does not permit her to attend meetings. She suggested to Andy that the Committee might sponsor a luncheon with a guest speaker. Andy said that the Committee would entertain that idea.

Andy asked Nick LaCourte if he would like to become a member of the Committee and Nick responded in the affirmative. Andy will bring that nomination to the Town Board for their approval.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Andy said that Dick and Sheila will be reformatting the emergency preparedness document for the July meeting. Dick said that there are two emergency preparedness documents, the official town document and the one which is on the website. The latter is the final version unless anyone has any further comments.

Nick said that he had spoken to the Project Manager at Red Hook Commons, Donna, and she was very interested in the document. She told him that she would be willing to use the material as part of her orientation when she introduces new residents to the Commons. She said that she would like copies of the booklet and offered to put them out in each building. Sheila told Nick that Donna can access the material on the town website. Andy concluded the discussion by saying that the Committee will shoot for completion of the project in July.

He added that at the last Town Board meeting he acknowledged Dick Wambach's excellent work in making the news of the Committee so visible on the website.

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Andy asked the members of the Committee to go on the website, review the Newsletter and let him know if there are any changes. Betty noted that the Walk Program should be added as well as the new toll free Dial A Ride telephone number.

NEW PROJECTS

Andy said that he foresees that the PANDA project will soon be taking shape. He asked the Committee members to think about new project ideas for the next meeting. He brought up the possibility of getting a speaker, perhaps about Social Security. Rose said that PANDA represents the Committee's greatest chance to reach the largest number of people. Andy noted that using PANDA might help reach those people who have mobility problems. Jeanne said that she had been tuning in to PANDA and the audio was very poor and garbled. Kelly said that she had the same experience. Andy said that it might have been the material given to PANDA rather than their own problems.

Betty asked if a Food Drive was being considered for the Fall. Jeanne mentioned that the exercise group at St. John's has speakers at times and they had recently had a very good speaker on poison control. The speaker made many good points relative to seniors and

had good handouts for the attendees. Jeanne said that the church had previous speakers on Alzheimers and on cataract surgery.

Andy asked if the group would like to set up a speaker program, perhaps on a quarterly basis. Topics could include aging in place, social security, etc. Jennifer said that if the Committee had a speaker, perhaps the speech could be taped and aired on PANDA and/or the website. Sheila said that if it is planned well enough in advance, it could be advertised in About Town. Jennifer suggested that the Committee start a page on Facebook. She said that a lot of towns are using it as another avenue for disseminating information. Dick noted that Facebook is very specific and reaches only those who are invited to take part in it.

Andy said that the group would have to discuss topics for a speaker program. Nick suggested the new medical legislation. Rose asked where the program would take place. Andy said it could be presented at the Town Hall or at Red Hook Commons.

Nick said that a lot of people in the Commons do not have cars. He asked if the Loop Bus could make a few stops in town. When Dial A Ride was brought up, he said that some people do not qualify for Dial A Ride as they require that one be able to walk a certain distance. Rose suggested to Nick that he call the Office for the Aging and they will advise him who he can call to get more information about the bus system. Jennifer suggested that the Project Manager at the Commons might be asked to look into this and Nick said that he would talk with her.

OTHER BUSINESS

Andy asked if there were any other questions. Betty mentioned that the Office for the Aging will be having a chicken barbecue in Red Hook on Sept. 15th. However, attendees will be required to show a picture ID. Jeanne said that she would get the details. Andy asked that the event be posted on the website.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on July 1, 2010 at 9:15 A.M. Andy thanked everyone for responding to his e-mail regarding the possibility of changing the meeting day/time and emphasized that he planned to try to keep the meetings to one hour. He asked if the group would like to meet in August and consensus was reached to skip the August meeting. The remaining meeting dates for 2010 will therefore be: Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Andy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Rose and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin
Secretary, Senior Services Committee

