

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

November 4, 2010

ROLL CALL

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman, Betty Bader, Carl Dowden, Jeanne Duntz,
Jennifer Fivelsdal, Richard Franklin, Nick LaCourte, Rose Rider, Judy
Walsh and secretary Sheila Franklin

Absent: Kelly Mosher

Also Present: Sue Crane, Town Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:24 A.M. He handed out copies of his monthly report to the Town Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, OCTOBER 7, 2010 MEETING

Andy asked if there were 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 Jennifer and all were in favor.

10% CHALLENGE

Micki said that the day had been very successful. The conservation advisory group had put together many good events. Forty seven cars had come with items to be recycled. Some of the seniors had come for the walk and there was a very large number of cyclists. She said that there will be another event in April, the halfway point of the program.

SENIOR WALK PROGRAM

The walk program has now been officially suspended. It will begin again in April or May and will continue every Wednesday through the spring and summer.

MEDICARE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Nina Lynch will be addressing current Medicare enrollees about how the new healthcare reform legislation will affect Medicare, Medigap, Epic, etc. She has a lot of useful material to share. The Poughkeepsie Journal and the Kingston Freeman ran the advertisements sent by the Committee. Andy said that he had contacted Fire Chief Pete Coon and the sign is out, ready for the lettering to be done.

Andy handed out the flyer which he had prepared. Copies were given to Nick for Red Hook Commons and to Carl for distribution to Rotary. Jennifer said that she did a blog and sent it to Facebook. Andy said that he had spoken to Fr. Fred Cartier, who is a videographer. Fr. Fred will tape the presentation for airing on PANDA. Sheila said that the OFA has sent out an e-mail announcing the presentation. In regard to registration for attendees, Andy said that he had spoken to Nina and she had said that it was not necessary.

Andy asked the members of the Committee to spread the word about the meeting and asked for volunteers to get the flyer to the Milan and Tivoli Town Halls. Jennifer will go to Tivoli, Betty to Milan and Jeanne to Upper Red Hook. Andy said that the churches and civic organizations should be covered as well.

FIRE SAFETY ISSUES AT RED HOOK COMMONS

Nick said that he had been unable to contact Micki before the meeting. When he contacted the Village and the Town, they told him that the management has to get involved. Fire Chief Pete Coon had called the manager, Donna. She said that they have a sprinkler system and they therefore do not need an emergency plan. Nick asked Micki if she would have a short meeting with Donna and himself to see what he has prepared. Micki made an arrangement to do so.

Betty asked if there is an emergency telephone number for the Commons. Nick said that there is a number, but he doesn't know how good that number is because the staff is part time and is frequently unavailable. Dick said that a sprinkler system is not enough; it is necessary to have a plan. Micki asked if Dick would get involved. He responded that he had already done some research and had spoken to Fire Chief Pete Coon. Nick asked if Dick would review the material he had prepared.

Andy asked if a plan has been made to conduct a mock drill. Nick said that he had called Pete Coon and Pete had told him to call the project manager. In the interim, Nick said that he has been educating the residents regarding what to do in case the fire alarm goes off. Andy said that manager Ken Kearney has to be in the loop. Dick said that he typically defers to his project manager. Jeanne suggested posting instructions on the inside of the apartment doors as is done in hotels.

PANDA

Andy said that Dick had met with Cathy O'Connor. Dick said that he and Cathy had agreed on a plan to develop a four segment presentation. They have the layout and are working on an outline. The topic of the first segment will be the need for emergency preparation in homes. It will be followed by segments on putting together emergency materials and caring for pets in an emergency, The final segment will be a summary. It will be kept simple so that people can easily use the information presented. Each segment will be half an hour. The presentation will be put together in Power Point. People will be directed to the Town website, where the Emergency Preparedness Brochure is posted. Dick said that he and Cathy have not yet set up their next meeting. Andy asked Dick to keep the Committee advised so that any interested members can attend that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

DIAL A RIDE

Andy said that serious issues have arisen regarding the economic feasibility of maintaining Dial A Ride. He handed out a letter from John Beale, Director of the OFA, to Sue Crane, Town Supervisor. He said that due to budgetary constraints, the cost of Dial A Ride, which had formerly been subsidized, must now be passed on. Therefore, in

addition to the monthly rate, there must now be a fare. Andy asked what the current budget is for Dial A Ride for Red Hook. Rose responded that it is \$5,000. Betty noted that formerly Dial A Ride was only for seniors and now it will be open to everyone. She therefore thought that the ridership would increase.

Andy said that the issue is whether the cost per annum of almost \$9,000 is justified. Rose said that there were approximately 437 riders annually. If we divide that out, it comes to \$21 a ride. Andy said that if the town paid that amount for three years, it could purchase its own van as Rhinebeck has done. The drivers there are volunteers and the van is dispatched by the Town Clerk. The Rhinebeck van operates two days a week. One day it offers trips to the Village and the other day it conducts shopping trips. There are no fees. The Town pays for the insurance, etc. The Highway Department plans to do any necessary repairs.

The question, Andy continued, is whether the Committee thinks that this is an appropriate model and if so, how it can be utilized in Red Hook. Judy asked if the Town could use the Rhinebeck van on one of the days on which they do not use it. Dick asked about the Masons van, which is used to take people in need to special hospitals. Carl responded that that van is available only for the specific purpose of taking sick children to the hospital in Boston. It cannot be used for any other purpose. Betty said that Northern Dutchess Caregivers goes only to Kingston and Poughkeepsie.

Sue Crane, Town Supervisor, said that the Town cannot afford the changes to Dial A Ride. She said that one of the ways to deal with this is to consider who is using this service and where they are going. If most of the riders are from Red Hook Commons, perhaps they could carpool. Many of the residents do drive. She asked if a meeting of the residents could be called at Red Hook Commons to see how many people have a need and who would be willing to put their name on a list to offer rides. There may be more people willing to help than one would anticipate. Nick felt that this was a good idea. Sue said that she knew some people who would be willing to offer rides.

Andy asked if Red Hook could combine funds with Rhinebeck. Sue suggested that he speak with the Chair of their Committee, Marcia DiBlasi. They may be willing to share the insurance and maintenance costs. She asked Andy to talk with them first and then she could talk with Tom Traudt, Town Supervisor of Rhinebeck. Andy said that he would contact Marcia DiBlasi and discuss the possibility of sharing. Sue concluded by saying that both she and Tom Traudt are both committed to providing services for seniors.

There was some discussion about how help could be provided for people who have difficulty getting on the van. Carl said that the town has to present the new budget soon and we need time to get the Dial A Ride money into that budget. Andy asked if the Town Board could keep that line item in to be used later. Rose responded that this would be possible. She said that there are two options, viz. using volunteers or developing a joint project with Rhinebeck.

Andy asked Nick if he was willing to look into signing up volunteers. Rose said that a broader approach is necessary to canvass Red Hook Commons as certainly Nick could not know everyone. Nick suggested getting this issue into the Commons' newsletter and also surveying the needs of the residents. Andy then asked if everyone was in favor of telling the Town Board that the Committee supports maintaining the current line item of \$5,000 for Dial A Ride with the options of looking for volunteers or seeing if it is possible to set up a joint project with Rhinebeck.

Motion To Maintain Dial A Ride Line Item in Budget

Carl made a motion that the Committee recommend to the Town Board that it maintain the \$5,000 line item for Dial A Ride while the options of finding volunteers or setting up a joint project with Rhinebeck are explored. The motion was seconded by Judy and all were in favor.

Andy concluded the discussion by saying that Nick will try to get a sense of what the needs are at Red Hook Commons. In regard to the suggestion of contacting the local ministries, Carl said that the ministerium is in the process of being replaced by a council of churches which will include lay people as well as clergy. They have no such program, but are still in the process of coming together.

RED HOOK SENIORS

Rose said that the Town Board would like the Committee to be involved in making a decision as to what the Red Hook Seniors should do with the \$3,000 they get from the Town. Due to the budget situation, she said, the Town Board would like the Committee to oversee the expenditure of these funds. As the funds are town money, the Town Board feels it should know how the money is being used. Unlike other funds dispersed by the Town Board, this money is not related to any Committee. Betty suggested that the President of the Red Hook Seniors should report to the Board.

Motion Regarding Oversight of Red Hook Seniors Funds

Betty made a motion that the Red Hook Seniors should designate a person to be accountable for tracking and maintaining expenditure of town funds and that person should report to the Town Board. Nick seconded the motion and all were in favor

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Dec. 2, 2010 at 9:15 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Carl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Betty and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

Minutes submitted by:
Sheila Franklin
Secretary, Sr. Services Committee