

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 6, 2011

ROLL CALL

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman, Betty Bader, Carl Dowden, Jeanne Duntz, Jennifer Fivelsdal, Richard Franklin, Nick LaCourte, Kelly Mosher, Rose Rider

Absent: Judy Walsh

Also Present: Micki Strawinski, Town Board Liaison; Thomas Stark, Paramedic Field Supervisor, Northern Dutchess Paramedics; Linda Stoddard, Asst. to Town Spvsr.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:17 A.M. He thanked the members of the Committee for their dedicated work in 2010.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, DECEMBER 12, 2010 MEETING

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

DIAL A RIDE

Mr. Stark said that one of the limiting factors for Northern Dutchess Paramedics in planning an alternative to Dial A Ride is the number of people they can accommodate in the ambulettes, viz. three. He said that they are working to stay within the \$5000 which the town has earmarked for this project and will have something to show the Committee in about a month. He suggested that there be pick up points near the center of town, one of which could be at Red Hook Commons. People could be picked up at these points and taken to Hannaford or other local destinations. There are some questions which NDP has to work out internally. These issues are being discussed with the Manager of the Ambulette Service. It might be possible for NDP to modify one of their trucks so that it would take more people. Also, they might consider getting a vehicle specifically for the purpose of providing these services. Other local communities might also be interested in such services.

Mr. Stark said that his initial review indicates that the project is viable as long as there is a specific time frame for pick ups. A schedule could be established which would not interfere with NDP's ongoing contracts. Betty asked what can be done for people who cannot get to the pick up points. Mr. Stark said that there could be instances where people living in outlying areas could be accommodated. Andy said that the plan is to start with shopping trips and have Northern Dutchess Caregivers provide transportation to medical appointments. However, if a handicapped person is in need of such transportation, it could be provided in the ambulette which is handicapped equipped.

Linda said that she got a call from someone who called Northern Dutchess Caregivers and did not receive a call back. Betty responded that call backs are usually made within a day and it would be rare for any call to go unanswered. Nick asked how far in advance

people should call Northern Dutchess Caregivers in order to schedule transportation for a medical appointment. Betty said that a minimum of five days in advance would be necessary. Andy asked if the caller could be called back and notified that Northern Dutchess Caregivers is working on finding someone in the vicinity to accommodate them. Betty replied that that is their procedure. Nick said that he had put information about Northern Dutchess Caregivers in the Red Hook Commons newsletter. Many people there were unaware of the organization and the services which they provide.

Mr. Stark said that they need to determine what can be done with the amount of money which is available. He has estimated that 120 short duration round trips could be made per year. This would include two trips per week for 52 weeks plus trips for events, elections or special cases. In a unique situation where there are medical needs, the service could be provided by NDP and would be covered by insurance. Nick asked Mr. Stark if there would be a separate telephone number for the shopping trip service. Mr. Stark said that one of the firm's current telephone numbers would have to be used.

Micki said that she had asked IGA if they would deliver groceries; however she has not had a reply yet. Sheila said that Stop and Shop has such a service, but they charge \$6.95 for orders over \$100 and \$9.95 for orders between \$50 and \$100. Betty said that she knows of someone who will do shopping at a reasonable cost. She also said that the Friendship Centers sponsored by the Office of the Aging presently take seniors to Stop and Shop. They have a van and also have trips to Kingston once a month.

Mr. Stark said that NDP has a narrow window within which to provide services. He is working with the firm's business development person to do a presentation so that the Committee can see what an ideal service would cost and then determine which of the services would provide the most good for the most folks.

Kelly said that the plan sounds good, but asked about the small number of people who could be accommodated, viz. three. Mr. Stark said that since the distance is short, there might be two stops. The driver could do a pick up and drop off and then go back and get another group. There would be one hour for shopping in the store. Betty asked about Provost Park. Mr. Stark said that if they had a bigger truck, they might be able to stagger the days and provide a service. Andy said that if there were pick up stops, there would be no need for people to call in. However, if they do not call in there might be no one at the stop or there might be more than three people. Mr. Stark said that they have a dispatcher and someone could coordinate and schedule depending on how many people call in.

Andy had obtained a list of Dial A Ride users and found that most of them were picked up close to town. About one third were in Red Hook Commons. He suggested going with a plan involving two trips a week and asked how that would work over the course of a year in terms of expenditures. Mr. Stark said that NDP's issue is that they only have four hours to pick up and return people. He suggested that perhaps people could go to, or be driven to, pick up points.

Nick asked if there was going to be a surcharge. Rose said that for Dial A Ride it was going to be \$3.50 per trip. Mr. Stark said that it might be possible for NDP to utilize multiple trucks, e.g. one for Red Hook Commons and one for town or one for those in outlying areas. The need is to keep the mileage down and still maintain a reasonable service radius.

Kelly said that since the amount of money available is limited, shopping trips should be made only to Hannaford or IGA. She again expressed concern over the small number of people who can be accommodated. She said that the town will have to depend on Northern Dutchess Caregivers for getting people to medical appointments. She suggested that perhaps the town should consider purchasing a used school bus when one is retired from the school system as they are usually sold for a low price.

Andy said that the number of people who can be accommodated per trip is the limiting factor. Mr. Stark said that NDP has additional seats which could be installed, but the vehicle would have to be inspected again by the state. This would double the capacity of the vehicle, allowing it to accommodate six rather than three people.

Betty asked how NDP would handle people's groceries. Mr. Stark said that the riders would have to be taken to their homes; however if trips are limited to Hannaford or IGA which are close by, taking them home would not pose a problem. He asked if the village might have any money for this project. Nick said that as the number of people who can be accommodated is limited, those most in need at Red Hook Commons could be identified.

Dick said that a good beginning has been made. There are limitations, but a small program can be started and it can be expanded later. He felt that the Committee should get the program started and working and then what can and cannot be done can be determined. Betty asked about charging a nominal fee. Mr. Stark felt that he would like to see the model built and tested before discussing a fee. He suggested that a trial run be made. This would provide feedback for NDP and the Committee. Mileage can be limited by going only to Hannaford or IGA. Three people could be picked and dropped off and then another run could be made for three more people. Linda said that Dial A Ride was only providing one day a week and suggested doing that.

Betty asked if the seniors would be able to do their shopping in one hour. Mr. Stark said that there would be some flexibility. It could be one and a quarter or one and a half hours. Betty asked if the Committee could find out how much time the Friendship Centers allow for shopping on their shopping trips. Andy felt that one to one and a half hours would be sufficient for most people.

Mr. Stark suggested doing the trial run this month. Andy said that the Committee would have to consider this and then submit the idea to the town. We have to look primarily at stops on Rt. 9, two trips per week with three people per trip. Kelly said that it is a given that the demand already exceeds what the town can do. Mr. Stark said that NDP can do the trial run to see how it will run. There would be no charge to anyone. They just want

to see if the mechanics of the plan will work. He said that he would like to get back to NDP and set that up. Andy thanked Mr. Stark and NDP for this generous offer.

Andy said that the model would include a once a week stop at Red Hook Commons. Nick will identify three people at Red Hook Commons to be offered rides for the one time trial run. These will be people who do not have cars and have difficulty arranging for rides. The trial run will enable NDP and the Committee to see how well the model works and if the time frame is good. This information will be part of the plan which will have to be submitted to the town. Mr. Stark said that NDP would be willing to make a presentation to the town.

Andy thanked Mr. Stark and NDP for this pro bono offer and said that Mr. Stark and Nick would get back to the Committee after the trial run to let everyone know how it went. He thanked Mr. Stark for being extremely helpful to the Committee and the town.

Since the number of people is the biggest problem, Kelly asked if a basic vehicle could be used rather than the ambulette. Dick suggested that perhaps if people could call Hannaford with a list of what they want to buy, Hannaford might be able to help them with their shopping.

Mr. Stark said that his plan is to do the trial run next week and then bring feedback and a written plan to the Committee. After discussion, it was decided that the Committee would hold a special meeting on January 20th at 9:15 AM. and would report to the Town Board at their January 26th meeting. Andy will e-mail any relevant information to the Committee members prior to this meeting. He advised the Committee that a letter had been sent by the town to Dial A Ride users informing them of the discontinuation of Dial A Ride services and letting them know that the town is looking for an alternative.

FOOD DRIVE

Andy said that the planning for the Drive will be done via e-mail. He will get the flyer out and Sheila will do the advertising. The pick up of donations will be arranged via e-mail.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Jan. 20, 2011 at 9:15 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Carl and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

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