

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

October 6, 2011

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Richard Franklin

Also Present: Betty A'Brial, Nancy Finkle

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M. and introduced prospective Committee member Nancy Finkle and Betty A'Brial, who is considering joining the Committee. She was referred by Betty Bader. Andy thanked her for volunteering her time. He handed out copies of his latest report to the Town Board and said that he had not as yet informed them that Nancy Finkle had joined the Committee, but he will be doing so.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SEPT. 15, 2011 MEETING

Kelly Mosher handed out copies of the Minutes she had prepared after the last meeting. Andy thanked her for her efforts. After allowing time for the members to read the Minutes, he asked if there were any changes or other modifications. Two corrections were made. On Page 2, it was noted that drills at Red Hook Commons will be every three months not every six months. Also, the time of adjournment was added. Betty Bader made a motion to accept the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Nancy and all were in favor.

ENERGY PRESENTATIONS

Andy said that Anne Marie Hirschberger had made two presentations on September 20th, one at the Fire House at 1:30 P.M. and later at the Seniors' meeting at 6:30 P.M. The presentations were jointly conducted by Anne Marie and Zwia Wojnar, the Research Director at Pace. He said that they did an excellent job and offered a lot of information. Attendance was good and the audience had good questions. Jeanne said that at the Seniors presentation several people attended who were not part of the Seniors group.

Andy announced that there would be a Lunch and Learn at the Town Hall from Noon to 2:00 P.M. today (October 6th). Seniors will be targeted, but the presentation will be for the community at large. Hannaford has offered to donate sandwiches, water and coffee.

FRIENDS OF SENIORS

Ms. Davidson will be providing Andy with her budget report. He said that the organization is flourishing; however its success is based upon the dedication and hard work of Ms. Davidson. He asked the group for their thoughts about modeling an effort on this example. Kelly said that the most important thing is to have someone who is willing to put in endless hours in order to make the organization a success.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Nick said that he has the list of people in the area who had been using Dial A Ride. Of the 26 people on the list, thirteen are from Red Hook Commons. He said that he has been working with another resident of the Commons who used to be a taxi cab driver. For a reasonable fee, his friend is willing to use his own car to transport residents to Town and to Hannaford. In response to discussion about establishing low rates, Kelly said that rates have to be published but the provider of the service has the right to establish whatever rates he or she decides upon. Carl noted that if this is a business, it has to carry appropriate insurance.

Andy said that Red Hook needs a model for a small program. Nick agreed that it would be best to start small and then expand. Two or three volunteer drivers would be needed. The volunteers would have to be recruited before considering how to obtain a van. A request for volunteers could be posted in the community to see what kind of response that would generate. Andy suggested making a short presentation at the Commons to see if anyone there might volunteer. Rose felt that Nick's efforts with the taxi cab driver should not be undercut. Nick said that he could put something in the Commons' Newsletter asking residents to check with their neighbors to see if they need a ride. Kelly suggested putting the request for volunteers in the Commons' Newsletter.

Betty Bader said that the Committee should watch the Rhinebeck program to see what services they are offering and how they are doing. Perhaps that program could serve as a model. She expressed a concern about insurance. Carl said that if the taxi cab driver uses his personal vehicle and charges people, his personal auto insurance may be void. However if he is volunteering, that would not pose a problem. He added that the name of the Town of Red Hook should not be used in requesting volunteers, as that would require the approval of the Town Board.

Nancy said that she had previously run a Shop For You business. She charged \$5.00 for pickup and delivery of packages. Now, she said, she would have to charge \$10.00. She did this only for people who could not get out and do their own shopping. Carl said that if one is only asking for gas money, that could be feasible. Nick's friend, however, is charging a fee for service.

Andy said that the Committee would have to get permission from the Town Board to do a presentation at Red Hook Commons. Rose said that the Committee would have to have a program to present. Carl said that that would depend on what is being promoted. If you are just asking people to watch out for their neighbors and provide volunteers with gas money only, that would be OK. However, if you are taking people places under the auspices of the town's Senior Services Committee, then the Town of Red Hook becomes involved. Andy said that he was thinking in terms of raising awareness rather than of presenting a program. Nick offered to put something in the Newsletter alerting residents to the need to help one another. He will also speak with the Project Manager.

Kelly suggested putting up one sign asking who needs a ride and another sign asking who is willing to volunteer. Jeanne asked if it would be possible to canvass each building within the Commons. Nick said that most people look out for their neighbors; however there is always a small group that gets left out and it is important to identify those people.

Betty A'Brial said that she thought that she heard that in the Albany area Hannaford has a van that picks people up; however she was not sure of that. Carl said that Stop and Shop has a delivery service. Sheila said that they do charge a fee; but it is not unreasonable. She suggested that perhaps Hannaford might like to be competitive and offer the same type of service. Andy said that he will be speaking with the store manager soon and will ask about either a delivery or transportation service.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

Andy said that he has spoken with Stacey Landor, the Community Liaison and Representative for St. Francis Home Care Services in regard to the presentations which they offer. As he had only heard from two members of the Committee in regard to picking out topics to be presented, he handed out copies of the list of topics and asked everyone to look them over and pick out two topics which they feel would be of greatest interest to the community. The following topics were chosen:

- Coping Through the Holidays (Sheila)
- The Diabetes Epidemic (Betty Bader)
- Eating Healthy (Carl, Betty A'Brial, Kelly)
- Elder Law & Financial Planning (Betty A'Brial, Rose)
- Fitness for Seniors (Sheila)
- Medication Management (Jeanne, Nancy, Kelly, Rose)
- Memory & Aging (Betty Bader, Dick)
- The Sandwich Generation - Aging & Elder Care Issues (Nick)
- Basics of Sleep Apnea (Dick)
- Wound Care Education (Jeanne)

Andy will be contacting Stacey re this list. He felt that something should be scheduled before Thanksgiving. He would like to avoid scheduling during the winter months, given the weather problems which occurred with the Food Drives. If a presentation cannot be scheduled by November, he felt that the Committee should wait until April.

MEMBERSHIP

Betty A'Brial expressed a desire to join the Committee. Andy asked her to submit a note to Sue McCann making this request.

FOOD DRIVE

Andy said that the Food Drives have been appreciated. Community Action told him that Spring would be a great time for a drive and Andy said that he likes that time frame because you do not have to worry as much about the weather.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on November 3, 2011 at 9:15 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Nick 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, Sr. Services Committee