

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

January 5, 2012

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Rose Rider

Also Present: Sue Crane, Town Supervisor; Brenda Cagle, TB Liaison; Betty A'Brial; Nancy Finkle; Cynthia Ruiz, Transit Administrator, Dutchess County Mass Transit

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:18 A.M. He thanked the members of the Committee for all their work in 2011 and wished everyone a happy New Year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, DEC. 1, 2011 MEETING**

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

**SENIOR NEWSLETTER**

Andy said that he will be sending an e-mail assigning parts of the newsletter to each of the members for review.

**DISTRICT LEVEL MEETING AT MILL ROAD SCHOOL**

Andy reminded the Committee of the District Level Meeting which Kelly announced would be held in the K2 Wing at the Mill Road School on Monday, January 9, 2011 at 3:30 P.M. The school is seeking input on their programs from various segments of the community and would like representation from senior citizens.

**FOOD DRIVE**

The Food Drive will be held on Mar. 20th and 27th from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. at the Firehouse. Community Action is very happy that the Committee is undertaking another drive on their behalf. Andy said that he is waiting for approval from Fire Chief Coon and Fr. Fred Cartier. Community Action will be coming to pick up the donated items. Andy will look into the possibility of having evening hours.

**2012 CALENDAR**

Andy noted that the July meeting would fall on July 5th this year and questioned whether this might pose a problem due to the proximity to the July 4th holiday. He will wait for input from the Committee to determine whether or not the meeting should be scheduled for another date in July.

**TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

Andy said that he feels that transportation is a significant issue. He introduced Cynthia Ruiz, Transit Administrator for the Dutchess County Division of Mass Transit. Ms. Ruiz said that the County provides four types of services: the Loop buses; Dial-A-Ride; Flex and Paratransit. She said that her job is to oversee the management company for these programs and assure that appropriate services are provided. She has been working in this capacity since June of 2009 and said that the system has changed since then.

The Loop Bus is the fixed route service. She said that the C Bus services the Red Hook area. The schedule can be found on the County website. To find the schedule, go to [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov) and click on Transportation. The C Bus goes to Tivoli and Red Hook and then to Poughkeepsie. There is only one bus; however it starts at 6:30 A.M. and runs all day. Evening service was cut due to lack of ridership.

The ADA Complementary Paratransit service is for people who qualify as disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In order to use the service, one must live within three quarters of a mile from the regular route. Riders must apply for eligibility with LOOP. This can be done on the website or by calling Cynthia at (845) 473-0171, x103. The application form asks the applicant to specify his or her disability and provide a reference who can confirm this information, e.g. a physician or an agency which provides services to the individual. The address of the applicant will then be checked to confirm that the bus can get to it. Once approved under the ADA eligibility requirements, an ID card will be provided which must be shown when using the service.

All vehicles are wheelchair accessible and, since there is federal program funding, all services are open to the general public. At this time, new schedules are being drawn up. Ms. Ruiz said that once they are available, they will be delivered to the Town Hall.

Ms. Ruiz noted that Red Hook no longer subscribes to Dial-A-Ride. However, she said, there are other options for riders. One can get a ride to one of the fixed bus stops. If one has an address which is accessible, a second option is the Paratransit service. Costs are as follows:

Fixed Route	\$1.75
Fixed Route for seniors, those with disabilities, veterans and students	\$ .75
Paratransit (one way) (Based on federal regulations, this fare is twice the regular fare.)	\$3.50
Flex (within Red Hook)	\$5.00
Flex (to another town)	\$6.00

The Flex Bus is in Red Hook early in the morning. It brings people to morning programs in Poughkeepsie. Reservations must be made three to thirty days in advance. The sooner reservations are made the better as this is a first come, first served system. Reservations can be made by calling the main telephone number and asking for Flex. A schedule is built around the reservations which are made. If one has a medical appointment, Flex

will never bring the rider to the appointment late. However, depending on the other reservations which must be accommodated, it may bring the rider to the appointment early. Also, it is possible on Flex to have a subscription appointment for a particular time every week for a specified number of weeks.

Nick said that 26 people were utilizing the Dial-A-Ride service. He asked if all could be accommodated. Ms. Ruiz replied in the affirmative. She said that the largest buses in the system can hold 59 people. On a shopping trip, they would bring the riders to the store and then come back later to pick them up. She said that the driver would help people get on the bus with their packages, but only if asked. Out of respect for the individual, they do not offer help unless asked. The Flex buses run from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.; therefore the riders must complete their shopping by 1:30. The service is available to anyone in the community, not only those who are disabled. However, if a person lives along the fixed route, they must use the regular buses and not the Flex.

Ms. Ruiz said that a Hannaford drop off is going to be offered as a courtesy, i.e. there will be no additional charge. However, the rider will have to ask the driver to be dropped off or picked up there. The rider can also call for a reservation to make this stop. Ms. Ruiz advised that if one is calling, one should ask for the name of the person taking the call.

Ms. Ruiz said that some stores will pay for some or all of the cost the fixed route fare, especially if it is for groups. Sue said that there are 96 people living at Red Hook Commons. She asked if a day could be scheduled for a bus to take people from the Commons to Hannaford and then pick them up. Ms. Ruiz said that this would be possible. Nick offered to put an announcement in the Commons' newsletter. Ms. Ruiz asked Nick if he could speak to the residents and find out their first and second choices for a pick up day. The fare would be \$3.50 for ADA-eligible passengers, because the bus would have to go off route. If the riders could walk out to Route 9, the fare would be \$.75. If they wanted to go into the complex on the return trip, which would make it easier to carry packages, the return fare would be \$3.50.

Dick advised Ms. Ruiz to look at the location of the Commons. It is only fifty feet off the road, he said. Ms. Ruiz replied that there would have to be an off route charge because there are too many similar requests from housing complexes. Every route has senior complexes and they cannot all be accommodated. She also felt that ridership would be lost if the bus were to stop at the Commons as it would take too much time to drop everyone and their packages off. She did, however, offer to talk to the manager of the Hannaford store and tell them that other stores pay part of the fare. Sue felt that since this would only be for one day a week, they might be amenable. Andy asked for the criteria which determine whether or not a location is on the fixed route. Ms. Ruiz replied that there must be no deviation from the line. She said that she had lobbied to offer a stop at Castle Point as a courtesy.

Dick asked if the Town of Red Hook could put up a shelter near the road. This might help enable people to go to the road and wait for the bus. Ms. Ruiz said that the transit

system would supply a shelter under an agreement with the Town, providing the Town erect the shelter, insure it, and maintain it.

Ms. Ruiz said that in their town budget Ellenville has allowed a certain amount of money for transportation for seniors on the bus. The seniors use the bus and the town gets billed. She said that this might be another transportation option. Any organization can have an account, she said. Accounts are billed quarterly. Dick pointed out that the new medical offices which have opened next door to the Stop and Shop provide an opportunity for people to go to their medical appointments and then shop. Ms. Ruiz said that the Stop & Shop is already on the route and therefore a courtesy stop need not be arranged.

Andy asked if there is a brochure which describes the three services which Ms. Ruiz had discussed. She responded that the regular bus schedule has all the information and the new schedules will be delivered to the Town Hall soon. She reminded the Committee that anyone who wants to go to any destination which is not on the fixed route must fill out the ADA form which is online. It is good for one year then one has to re-register.

Andy said that Nick will canvass the residents at the Commons. Andy will give Ms. Ruiz the telephone number of the Hannaford manager. Ms. Ruiz said that she is available to address any group relative to the services her organization provides. Andy said that he would like to have her speak to the community at large. She said that she is available during the day or in the evening, every day except Sunday. Sue said that it may be possible to carve out a time for her to address the Town Board. The Town Board meetings are carried on PANDA. Andy said that perhaps she should address the residents at the Commons. Sue asked how many people generally attend the Seniors meetings. Jeanne responded that it is usually about 25.

Ms. Ruiz said that it is possible to buy gift certificates for the bus. One simply has to call the office and indicate how many trips are to be covered. She said that Medicaid may pay for transportation. If one is not eligible for Medicaid, s/he may be eligible for Medicaid's spend down program. Transportation to medical appointments are free for those on this program.

Andy thanked Ms. Ruiz for her informative talk.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Sue introduced Brenda Cagle, the new Town Board liaison to the Committee.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on February 2, 2012 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 10:40 A.M.

Minutes submitted by:

Sheila Franklin

Secretary, Sr. Services Committee