

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

May 3, 2012

ROLL CALL

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman, Betty A'Brial, Betty Bader, Jeanne Duntz, Nancy Finkle,
Richard Franklin, Nick LaCourte, Rose Rider

Absent: Carl Dowden, Kelly Mosher

Also Present: Brenda Cagle, TB Liaison; Sarah Rogine, Food Stamps Training
Coordinator for Catholic Charities

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:17 A.M. He introduced Sarah Rogine, Food Stamps Training Coordinator for Catholic Charities and thanked her for coming to the meeting to address the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, APR. 5, 2012 MEETING

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

JUNE FOOD DRIVE

Andy said that he had spoken to Jacqueline Chapman from Community Services and they discussed asking for donations of lunch as well as breakfast items. That would include such items as crackers, cheese, tuna fish, etc. Andy also said that he had spoken to Fr. Fred and arranged for the Committee to use the Firehouse from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. on June 12th for the Drive.

Sarah said that Tarrytown had conducted a food drive for breakfast items. Nancy said that in Columbia County the school put breakfast items in a backpack and the church consortium is trying to come up with a similar program. Betty A' Brial said she would bring up the Drive at the next meeting of the Red Hook Ministerium. Rose felt it would be best to ask for lunch as well as breakfast items. After discussion, the Committee agreed to ask for breakfast and lunch items and to call the Drive "Give a Child a Summer Breakfast".

Secretary Sheila Franklin will update the previous flyer and send it to Andy. The date will be June 12th from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Firehouse. As in the past, the Drive will be co-sponsored by the Red Hook Seniors and the Senior Services Committee and all donations will go to Red Hook Community Action. The flyer will describe the food items which are wanted, viz. non-perishable breakfast and lunch items. It will also indicate that the intent of the Drive is to provide breakfast and lunch for children who benefit from school programs during the school year, but not during the summer.

The draft of the flyer will be sent to the Committee members for review. Andy asked the members to send any comments or changes to Sheila by Monday, May 7th. She will e-

mail the final version to Andy by Tuesday, May 8th. This will enable the Committee to distribute the flyer at Apple Blossom Day on May 12th. When he receives the final version of the flyer, the Committee agreed that Andy should make 75 copies on yellow paper at Copy Cat. Jeanne said that the Red Hook Seniors will not be having a meeting on June 12th. Therefore, Betty A'Brial, Rose and Nick offered to be at the Firehouse to receive the donations. Dick will help them get into the Firehouse.

Andy asked Sheila to do the usual PR for the Drive and to contact the Red Hook Observer. He said that he will get the flyer included in the school's virtual backpack. He will find out if there are letters for the new town sign. Dick will check with the Masons to see if the Committee can use their sign again to advertise the Drive. Betty A'Brial will contact Todd Baright to see if he will allow the Committee to use his sign again. Dick and Nick offered to set up the Firehouse sign. Jeanne said that although the Seniors will be having lunch at the Mason's lodge, they can collect food there and bring it to the Firehouse.

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Andy mentioned that the medication management presentation to be offered at the Town Hall by St. Francis will take place on October 17th from 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. It will be presented by pharmacist Dave Schaff.

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Andy said that he will take care of Nick's portion and then tabled further discussion until the next meeting.

PRESENTATION BY SARAH ROGINE, CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Sarah passed around several flyers describing the programs she coordinates in Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester. Her specific responsibility is food stamp outreach and her goal is to reach those in need who are not being reached, especially the rural poor, seniors and children of immigrants who qualify for food stamps. She described some of the barriers to getting people to sign up for food stamps. Immigrants often fear that they will have to pay back the money they receive. People know that some will be denied or given a minimal allotment. Seniors are used to taking care of others. Also, they may fear doing the paperwork. She said that Catholic Charities makes it easier for people to sign up. She explained that Food Stamp allotments are based on income, budget, medications, responsibility for other family members, etc.

Andy asked if Sarah liaisons with school districts relative to children who receive breakfast and/or lunch assistance. Sarah replied that she has made some contacts of this sort. She said that she finds that working with people who are already trusted and have existing liaisons is better than attempting to make contacts on her own. She would like to find key people who have these relationships. She said that she also works with DSS to find those in need. She stated that there are a million seniors in the U.S. who need food stamps and only half a million are getting them. Betty Bader said that people can get applications from Community Action. Sarah said that she has volunteers at the Starr Library who help people with applications. In response to questioning, she said that this

program is open to people from either Red Hook or Rhinebeck. Rose said that the Red Hook Library would probably be amenable to such a program. Betty Bader offered to contact the Library to discuss this possibility.

Jeanne Duntz said that her daughter is the Director of Food Services for the school and she offered to speak with her daughter about meeting with Sarah. Andy felt that there must be families in need who do not know that they might be eligible for these benefits. Andy felt that Sarah should meet with the school program personnel.

Sarah said that there are pockets of poverty in northern and eastern Dutchess County. Some schools have a weekend real backpack program (as opposed to the virtual backpack program which is used to disseminate information). It was started a year or two ago. The school found that children were bringing food home from the breakfast program to have on the weekend. Therefore, they started to send food home with the children in a backpack. At the end of the week, the children now get a backpack full of food and they bring the backpack back to the school on Monday. Andy questioned how the Committee might integrate that with Community Action. Betty A'Brial said that the churches do not know how to get the children in for meals during the summer. She said that she had spoken with Ted Kuhn about the children's programs at the Rec Park; but one cannot know whether any of the children who are in the Rec Park programs also are in the school programs.

Andy thanked Sarah for coming to the meeting and making an interesting and informative presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was announced that the Center for the Performing Arts in Rhinebeck will be collecting food for the Methodist Church Food Pantry at the May 4th and May 20th performances of Fiddler on the Roof.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 7, 2012 at 9:15 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Betty A'Brial and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

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