

Senior Services Meeting of Nov 1, 2012

Attending: Dick Franklin, Rose Rider, Nancy Finkle, Betty A'Brial, Chairman Andrew Kehr, Carl Dowden, Nick La Courte, Brenda Cagle

Guest: Nina Lynch, Retired Chair, Rhinebeck Committee on Aging

Andy reported that he had received good feedback on the Senior Brochure that was distributed at Hardscrabble Day. A total of 400 were made at a cost of \$260. He thanked everyone for their efforts in producing this document.

Nina Lynch gave us an overview of the project currently underway by the Rhinebeck Committee on Aging. About 6 or 7 years ago, they became aware of a program called "Aging in Place" which was started in Boston, MA, called Beacon Hill Village. A Poughkeepsie group then started "Hudson Valley Home Matters" which includes Hyde Park, city and town of Poughkeepsie, Wappingers, and La Grange. Since it did not include Rhinebeck and points North, the Rhinebeck group began to think about doing something similar.

One year ago, they did a townwide survey to poll interest in "Aging in Place". This was sent to everyone age 60 and older, based on Board of Education data.. The Town did not want to get involved, so they became incorporated.

The cost is a concern—Poughkeepsie charges \$500 per year for a single, \$700 for a double. Rhinebeck plans to provide their program at less cost. "Village to Village Network" is an online resource to learn about the program. Capitol Hill Village in D.C. is also a Village. There are currently 8 people on board with the Rhinebeck group.

Rhinebeck is not quite ready to open. They hope to open in the Spring. They have been allotted the use of office space by Northern Dutchess Hospital. They are incorporated solely for the Town of Rhinebeck, and so they will not reach into Red Hook. A question was raised as to any affiliation with CareGivers, but this is not the case.

The Goal is "Neighbors helping Neighbors stay independent at home" It is a member organization, there will be a fee to join. It is all volunteer, customized to the needs of the community. The two biggest services provided by the village are transportation for non medical purposes and socialization. Example: Transportation to shopping, Coffee/Teas, breakfast at Everready Diner. Liability: The Group must by insurance, so they joined NYSCON (council of Non Profits) at a cost of \$2,000.

They do not have their Non Profit status yet (cost is \$850), but in the interim, donations may be made to them through the Community Fund of Dutchess County.

They want to organization to by "bottom up" not "top down", they are considering a fee of \$180 for an annual single membership. It will cost the group \$250 annually to be a part of the "Village" network. The network is found at vtvnetwork.org This website

can be used to share information and ask questions. The Rhinebeck org. will share their survey with us. In a study of 70 villages, approx. 1/3 were independent and 1/3 were part of another organization. Each Village is different.

They will maintain a list of contractors and recommend—perhaps get a reduced price for their members as one of their services. This concluded the very informative presentation.

Betty A'Brial announced that there would be a free Thanksgiving dinner at the Red Hook Firehouse at 12:30, given by the Council of Churches.

Nick reported that the Girl Scouts hosted a Halloween Party at Red Hook Commons in the Common Space. Approx 80-85 people attended, including scouts, parents and seniors. He also noted the new benches and crosswalks in the village. He was concerned about transportation in times of disaster for people—particularly those on medical devices and who have pets. It was then noted in reply that the Fire Dept and Central Hudson keep lists of people who have life threatening situations and may need special attention in emergencies. The Town Clerk will also have information as to shelters available .

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42