

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

September 19, 2013

ROLL CALL

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman, Betty A'Brial, Jeanne Duntz, Richard Franklin, Nick LaCourte, Don Peterson, Rose Rider, Ed Sandfort

Absent: Betty Bader

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:22 A.M. He welcomed back the members of the Committee after the summer break.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JUNE 6, 2013 MEETING

Andy asked if there were any changes or other modifications to the Minutes. It was suggested that on Page 2 under Food Pantries, the reference to food pantries in town should be changed to food pantries in the area. Hearing no other changes, Dick made a motion to accept the Minutes with the one change suggested. The motion was seconded by Nick and all were in favor.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGE

Andy announced that a letter of resignation had been received from Nancy Finkle. She stated that she regretted that she had to leave; however the Committee meetings conflict with her volunteer work at Northern Dutchess Hospital.

RHINEBECK AT HOME

Andy said that he would like to identify one person from the Committee to work as a liaison to Rhinebeck at Home. Don offered to serve in this capacity. He said that he had received an e-mail from Nina Lynch and Rhinebeck at Home is having a gathering on Sept. 25th at the Rhinebeck Reformed Church. He said that there are currently 58 members. The Board meets monthly. He thought that this meeting might be on the third Thursday of the month.

Andy asked if the members are paying into the program. Ed responded that the membership fee is \$120. Andy asked if this fee entitles members to services or benefits. Rose responded that members volunteer to assist other members who request help with small household chores/problems. They are not paid. Only vendors get paid. The organization hopes to develop a list of contractors who are reliable and who, possibly, will offer members a discount. Andy asked what type of requests they have had and if they have been able to handle these requests. Rose said that most of the requests at this time have been for transportation and they have been able to provide that service.

Jeanne suggested asking Nina Lynch to come to a meeting and address the Committee. Andy said that he will call Nina and see if she can come to the next meeting. Nick asked where the \$120 membership fee goes. Rose said that there are fees relative to belonging to the Villages, legal fees, insurance and office expenses. She said that each Board

member initially donated \$100 and there were also some large donations. This enabled the organization to send out mailings and have a luncheon and other meetings. Andy said that the problem is that people in the community do not know about the organization.

FOOD DRIVE

Andy said that the Food Drive had been a tremendous success. Jacqueline Chapman of Dutchess Community Action was very gratified by the generous donations and was grateful to the Committee. The theme of "Give a Child a Summer Meal" really hit home. Andy said that he and Sheila and Dick Franklin had been at the Firehouse and they found that people really appreciated the evening hours. There were more donations in the evening than during the day. Overall, it was very successful and will be done the same way next year.

TRANSPORTATION

Nick said that there had been questions about the application form for the new pilot project offering transportation from Red Hook. He called Cynthia Ruiz earlier this week; however she has not yet responded. Andy said that he would like to ask her to come and meet with the Committee again.

Jeanne said that the application form was the one which had been used for Dial A Ride and that caused confusion. Nick agreed. He said that he had asked Cynthia to simplify the form, but that she had not gotten back to him about that. Andy said that it seemed as though the project was moving ahead; however the pilot did not get off the ground. He will call Cynthia about coming to another Committee meeting. Nick asked if Andy could request that she bring a simplified version of the application form.

SENIOR BULLETIN

Andy asked if the Committee wants to update the Newsletter. Rose noted that there is money in the budget which must be spent by the end of the year. Andy asked everyone to bring a copy of the Bulletin to the next meeting so that assignments could be made to review and update the document.. The update would have to be done by the December meeting. The Bulletin is available on the Town website for downloading.

SR. SAFETY PROGRAM

Andy commented on the increase in crime targeting senior citizens. Rose said that AARP is having a talk on this topic by a speaker from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department. They will be bringing literature. Andy suggested that the Committee sponsor a similar talk at the Town Hall. The Committee was in favor of this suggestion. Andy will contact the Sheriff's Office.

Dick offered to contact the Red Hook Observer as they have expressed an interest in senior activities. Andy suggested that perhaps Dick could get someone from the Observer to come and cover the talk. Dick will see if they would be willing to do this.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on October 17, 2013 at 9:15 A.M. at the Town Hall. After that, meetings will return to the previous schedule, i.e. the first Thursday of the month at 9:15 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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