

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

October 17, 2013

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman, Betty A'Brial, Betty Bader, Don Peterson, Rose Rider,  
Ed Sandfort

Absent: Jeanne Duntz, Richard Franklin, Nick LaCourte

Also Present: Nina Lynch, Rhinebeck at Home; Brenda Cagle, Town Board Liaison

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:17 A.M. and welcomed guest Nina Lynch of Rhinebeck at Home.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SEPT. 19, 2013 MEETING**

Andy told the Committee that the Minutes of the September meeting had not yet been completed due to the illness of the Secretary, Sheila Franklin. They will be done as soon as possible.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Andy said that he had left messages for Cynthia Ruiz regarding the Loop Bus Hannaford stop; however he has not yet heard from her.

**SR. SAFETY PROGRAM**

Andy told the Committee that he had contacted the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office regarding the senior safety program and had spoken with Sgt. Vincent Malchek (?). He noted that past presentations had been scheduled during the week in the evening. However, he felt that more people would be reached if the presentation were scheduled on a weekend during the day. He has checked with the Town Hall and Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013 at 11:00 A.M. is available.

The topic of the presentation will be senior safety issues and concerns. It would be the same presentation which was made at AARP. Andy said that he had also spoken to the Red Hook Police Department to see if they wish to participate. He will contact Hannaford to see if they might wish to contribute refreshments.

Secretary Sheila Franklin will take care of the PR after Andy makes all the necessary contacts. She said that she will also see if it is possible to send out a notice about the presentation on the Bard LLI network.

**RHINEBECK AT HOME**

Andy introduced Nina Lynch, who helped to spearhead the Rhinebeck At Home organization and thanked her for coming to the meeting. Nina said that Rhinebeck At Home was officially launched on May 9, 2013. However several years were spent in talking and planning. The goal for the year was to achieve a membership of 60 people.

She said that they have reached that goal. People have been eager to become part of the organization.

Nina said that there was a members only meeting in August; however the September meeting was open. The next scheduled meeting will be from 12:00 noon to 2:00 P.M. on October 30th in the basement of the Church of the Messiah and it will be open. Soup will be served. The focus, she continued, has been on socialization and that has been the primary incentive for people to join. The organization gives people a chance to get to know one another. As an example, in June a picnic was held at Linwood and people were seated next to members they did not know. The approach was well received.

Nina said that there are over a hundred active Villages in the Village to Village network and over a hundred which are in the process of forming. While each community is different, a key factor has been the desire to socialize. The only age restriction is that one has to be over eighteen to join. The average age for the Rhinebeck organization is about 78; however ages range from 58 to 98.

Andy asked if membership gives people access to resources. Nina said that the organization takes advantage of the Village to Village network. They decided that they needed a website and have established one. It is all based on the work of volunteers. A lot of time is spent talking about the nature of membership.

Andy asked what is the incentive for people to join. Nina responded that there are two things which attract people, viz. the need for socialization and the need for help. All members are volunteers; there are no non-member volunteers. Andy asked if a member who needs help would receive that help from another member or is there a resource list. Nina said that if a member needs help, s/he would call and a member volunteer would respond. She said that a lot of people have joined because they firmly believe that it is important to be prepared for aging.

She said that Rhinebeck At Home is probably unique in the Village to Village network in that it does not have outside volunteers. She said that the Board felt that it was critical to ask each member to volunteer. Each person gives back. If the help which is needed is too difficult for a volunteer to provide, they would be asked to seek outside help. Members have, at times, recommended outside providers. However the organization does not take liability for the work of any such provider. On request, a list may be obtained of providers (e.g. plumbers, etc.) who have done work for members.

Nina said that sometimes people ask for help with minor computer problems, small household tasks or transportation. The organization asks each person to sign up on one of their lists of interests. E.g. there might be a category of people who like to walk, or who like music, etc. Every member can look at the lists, sign onto them and/or contact others who are on that list. They can then get together or set up their own activities.

The lists are on the website and can only be accessed by members with a pin number. The only staff are the five office staff. They cover the phones and service the website. They are ones who log service requests. When a person calls the office for a service, the staff will connect them with someone or e-mail a response to them. One of the five office staff will go into the website and find out who has volunteered to do that type of thing. They obtain the appropriate list and then start making calls to people on that list.

Ed asked how the membership fee money is used. Nina said that their insurance cost is \$3200. There is a liability involved when you drive other people. It costs \$350 a year to be part of the Village network and there are expenses associated with the office which is maintained at Northern Dutchess Hospital. Only the Board members are allowed to go to this office.

Nina said that all potential members are interviewed in their homes. They feel that it is necessary to see the home environment of the members. When this is done, an agreement is signed indicating that the interview is strictly confidential. Also every member must have a background check and all members are required to volunteer for something. If the member is going to be driving others, a DMV check is also made.

After the initial interview, there is a second meeting at which the ground rules of the organization and the guidelines for volunteer work are reviewed. Written material covering these topics is given to the potential member.

Andy asked if anyone has ever expressed an interest in joining, but did not want to volunteer. Nina said that they have had people who said that they did not think that there was anything for which they would be able to volunteer. However, she continued, there are tasks which can be given to a person of any age or with any physical problem. As an example, she cited writing a thank you note on behalf of the organization.

Andy asked if there is a nucleus of people at the center of the organization. Nina said that there must be a few people who are willing to spend a lot of time running the organization. Rhinebeck At Home has a Program Committee composed of five people and a Board with three people. When people join, they identify what they are willing to offer in the way of service to the organization.

Rose asked if the organization has been able to satisfy the needs of the members for transportation. Nina said that with Caregivers closing, they are trying to figure out how to deal with this issue as they do not have enough staff or drivers. However, they have not had many calls for transportation.

In response to questioning, Nina said that the organization has met at various places and they usually have to pay a fee for the meeting space. Andy asked about the operating budget. Nina said that it is under \$15,000, but they spend less than that. There is presently enough funding for another year without any further fundraising.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on November 7, 2013 at 9:15 A.M. at the Town Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ed made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Don and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 A.M.

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

Addendum to the October 17, 2013 minutes

The following are the assignments for reviewing the accuracy in the Senior News Brochure:

Andrew: pgs. 2-3

Betty Bader: pgs. 4-5

Rose: pgs. 6-7

Don: pgs. 8-9

Ed: pgs. 10-11

Betty A'Brial: pgs. 12-13

Dick: pgs. 14-15

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Kehr, Chair

