

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 2, 2014

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Betty Bader, Ed Sandfort, Rose Rider

Also Present: Brenda Cagle, Town Board Liaison, Meg Heshner, SSIP (Settled and Serving in Place) Taconic, Janis Saggese, Pres., Red Hook Srs., Marge Roberts

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:26 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MAR. 5, 2014 MEETINGS

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

FRIENDS OF SENIORS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

Brenda advised the Committee that the Red Hook Observer will be doing an article on the Friends of Seniors. They will be interviewing Susan Davidson regarding the transportation services provided by her organization. Andy said that he planned to invite Ms. Davidson to attend another Committee meeting. He asked Secretary Sheila Franklin to put information about Friends of Seniors on the Town website.

AGING IN PLACE PROGRAMS

Andy said that aging in place programs offer a variety of services. The organization in Rhinebeck is focusing on social services and networking. He said that it is important that word gets out about the services provided by the Red Hook Seniors. They have been doing a great job in providing activities and resources for seniors, but they have not been calling themselves an aging in place organization. They do not have a resource list for members to use. Perhaps, Andy continued, this is something the Committee can help them to develop. Janis felt that maybe the Seniors could develop this idea along their own lines.

Meg said that forming their aging place group has been difficult because the area is so spread out. It includes Clinton and Milan. They have a list of about 25 contractors which was drawn up by the members. The group meets every week on Wednesday. Dues are \$25 a year. There is no Board of Directors and the group does not have insurance yet. The focus of the group is on services (i.e. contractors) and social activities. Nick asked if the group provides transportation services. Meg responded that at present there are no members who do not have cars.

Andy asked Janis if the Seniors could expand their programs. Janis said that they have always had speakers to keep the members informed about what is happening. The group

meets weekly on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. at the Firehouse. It is open to anyone who is 55 years of age or older. The fee is \$10 a year, which runs from September to September. There is an annual picnic and there are about three bus trips a year. A trip to a dinner theater is scheduled for May 13th. The Town contributes money to subsidize the buses, which brings the cost of the trips down.

Andy said that the Seniors already provide a nice spectrum of leisure activities, speakers, etc. The main feature which is missing is a resource list. He asked if Janis thought this could be developed. She said that she felt they would be able to do this as they already have information regarding 30 or 40 contractors. She thought it would be a good idea.

Andy asked how the Red Hook Seniors advertises. Janis said that it is mainly through the Red Hook Observer and word of mouth. Andy asked Janis if she could come to a Town Board meeting and he could introduce her and the group. Brenda thought that this would be a very good idea. Brenda and Janis discussed the matter and it was decided that Janis would attend the April 23rd meeting of the Town Board. Dick suggested that the meeting might be put on PANDA as it is already being taped.

Janis said that they have asked each member to list what they would be willing to do for the group and members do have access to that list. Andy suggested that perhaps the group could develop in areas which they are not currently addressing. Activities already in place include guest speakers, leisure activities, travel, exercise groups and an annual picnic. Jeanne added that the group also supports the VA at Castle Point.

Andy asked Janis to send him a report on the monthly activities of the Seniors which he could disseminate to the Committee. Janis agreed to do this. He stated that he felt that the Seniors should be working on two things: a list of contractors and advertising. Nick offered to put the telephone number and other information about the Seniors in the Red Hook Commons newsletter. He also offered to speak to the Project Managers at the facility about the group.

Andy asked if the Seniors have a website. When they said that they do not, Dick suggested that one could be set up on Facebook without cost. Brenda questioned whether seniors would use Facebook. Andy suggested that Janis look into getting some help to set up a website. He asked if Meg and Janis could help each other. Meg said her organization was willing to share; however many of the members don't want anything to do with computers. Dick suggested trying to get something into the newspapers.

Andy suggested trying to get the Observer to do an article on the Red Hook Seniors. Marge said it would be best to try to get it into one of the regular columns in the newspaper. Betty A'Brial suggested getting listings in About Town. Dick suggested contacting the Masons about the activities.

Brenda asked Meg if her group was sponsoring activities. Meg responded that thus far they have only had weekly meetings. They are held at the Schultsville Cafe at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesdays. There is an average attendance of six people. Betty suggested trying to

get the word out through the schools. Meg replied that there are four school districts in Clinton.

Andy summed up by saying that Janis will be attending the Town Board meeting and will be sending him monthly e-mails regarding the activities of the group. They will be working on gathering a list of contractors and developing a website. He gave Janis an open invitation to attend the meetings of the Committee.

FOOD DRIVE

Andy said that last year's Food Drive was very successful. He suggested setting a June date for the annual Food Drive and attending to the logistics at the May meeting. It was decided to hold the Food Drive on June 3rd from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Firehouse. As in previous years, it will be for summer meals for children who get subsidized meals during the year. Andy asked Dick to contact Fred Cartier about the Firehouse and he will speak to the Fire Chief. He will also look into using Kid Mail at the schools as he did last year. Superintendent Paul Finch was very helpful in this regard last year. Secretary Sheila Franklin offered to prepare a flyer and get it copied at the Town Hall. Members could then pick up copies to be distributed throughout the community.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting will be held on May 7, 2014 at 9:15 A.M. at the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Don and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

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