

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

October 1, 2014

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman, Betty A'Brial, Jeanne Duntz, Richard Franklin, Nick LaCourte, Rose Rider, Marge Roberts  
Absent: Betty Bader, Don Peterson, Ed Sandfort  
Also Present: Sue Crane, Town Supervisor; Brenda Cagle, Town Board Liaison

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:23 A.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SEPT. 10, 2014 MEETING**

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

Andy told the members of the Committee that it is essential that they notify him if they are not going to be present. This will allow him to cancel the meeting if several members are unable to attend.

**RESIGNATION OF NICK LACOURTE**

Nick requested one copy of the Senior Newsletter and one of the Disaster Preparedness pamphlet for distribution to the residents of Red Hook Commons. He said that the owner is willing to pay to have these publications copied. He then announced that he is resigning from the Committee so that he can do work for the Village. He said that he has enjoyed working on the Committee but feels that he can contribute more by working for the Mayor of the Village in seeking a federal grant for improvements to the Village. He asked the Committee for their support and help in signing and obtaining signatures for a petition to improvement some of the Village sidewalks. He said that he plans to attend both the Town and Village meetings.

Andy requested that Nick submit a formal letter of resignation and duly noted that he is doing so in order to do work for the Town and the Village. He thanked Nick for his work on the Committee and said that he will be missed. Nick thanked everyone for their support during his tenure on the Committee and he then left the meeting.

**SENIOR BULLETIN**

Andy asked about progress on updating the Senior Bulletin. Secretary Sheila Franklin said that all updates have been received except the information on veterans' discounts and walk in clinics which was to have been provided by Betty Bader. Andy asked Sheila to e-mail Betty, request this information and let him know if no response is received after one week.

There was a discussion about medical closets and Dick will be contacting the VFW and the Masons to determine whether they are willing to have the Committee list their medical closets in the Bulletin. There was a question about listing the UMC medical closet and Ed was identified as the appropriate person to ask about such a listing.

Rose asked about having a colored front page so that the publication stands out from others. The Committee agreed to this change. Andy said that he hoped to have a hard copy of the revised Bulletin at the next meeting. He asked Sheila about the feasibility of this and she said that it would depend on when she gets the information needed to complete the update.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Andy noted that there was a nice article in the Observer about the services offered by the Friends of Seniors. Secretary Sheila Franklin noted that we have a new publication in Red Hook, the River Chronicle and it should be utilized for PR purposes.

### **FOOD DRIVE**

Andy said that he had received a thank you letter from Dutchess County Community Action. They were amazed and grateful that there were so many donations..

### **SENIOR SAFETY TALK**

Andy asked the Committee if they still favor a late morning hour on a week day for this presentation. As the Committee was in agreement, he said that he will contact the Police this week. Marge asked if it might be possible to provide refreshments. It was noted that the presentation should not be scheduled for a Tuesday or Thursday morning as there are other activities which are held at the Town Hall on those mornings.

The Firehouse was suggested as a possible venue for the presentation. Sheila noted that the Firehouse is a very large facility and should only be used if a large number of people are expected. Andy said that there were about eighteen attendees at the last presentation. After further discussion, the Committee decided to try to arrange the talk for late Saturday morning (perhaps 11:30 AM) at the Town Hall and have light refreshments. It will be held after the next Committee meeting and before Thanksgiving.

### **FUTURE PROJECTS**

#### **SENIOR EXPO**

Andy said that he would not entertain the idea of doing an Expo until at the least a year from now, perhaps in October of 2015. The first one at the High School was very informative and brought in a large number of people. Various talks were offered and the Cafeteria housed vendors offering a variety of services. The next Expo was held at the Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck and food was offered. Fewer people attended this second Expo. Since that time, however, there are new vendors and new ideas, e.g. aging in place. Andy said that so much has changed since the last Expo that he thought another one would be a good idea. Also, there have not been any Expos like this for a while, so that timing might be good.

Andy said that the Committee as a group would have to make a list of everything which would be needed and subcommittees would have to be created so that the work is evenly distributed among the members. For the last Expo, the burden of work fell mostly on one or two members of the Committee. Vendors, food and speakers would have to be arranged. A real team approach would be needed in order for this project to succeed. Careful planning is essential. Jeanne suggested that each member of the Committee make a list of possible vendors and organizations which might be interested in participating. Rose said that contacting the vendors was the most time consuming part of the last Expo. Marge said that she would like to get younger people involved and teach them what it was like when today's seniors grew up as opposed to what it is like today.

Andy stressed that a full year would be needed to plan for this event in order to make it really meaningful and worthwhile. It would have to be the focus of Committee meetings for the next year. The only other project the Committee would do would be the annual Food Drive. It would take a year to plan this project and other communities might be engaged in the process. He suggested that the Committee start to talk about this process at the next meeting. We need to identify what we want to have and create subcommittees to handle the various aspects of the project. He stressed that good attendance at the Committee meetings would be essential. Rose said that we would need help setting up tables, etc.

Dick suggested that the idea should be brought up at the Town and Village Board meetings. These meetings are taped and reach a large audience via PANDA. He also suggested that the Committee meet with other community groups such as MHMG and representatives from Medicare and the pharmaceutical companies. Andy said that at the next Town Board meeting he would announce that the Committee is planning to have a Senior Expo in the Fall of 2015. Brenda said that she would advocate for the Committee when the Town Board starts their discussions regarding the 2015 budget. Rose said that for the previous Expo the Committee had not charged vendors and the food had been donated. The only money which was expended was on PR.

In response to discussion, Andy said that the Committee should not have a joint event with another community, but should communicate with other groups. In fact, a subcommittee might be set up for this purpose. At the last Expo, break out sessions were held on various topics and two sessions of each were scheduled so that people would not miss anything they were interested in. Rose said that we must think about food as well and good PR would be needed to reach people.

Andy said that he is going to have some job changes and he will know by the next meeting whether or not he can continue to chair the Committee. He asked the members to bring ideas for the Expo to the next meeting. He said that the Committee needs to consider the venue for the Expo. Rose suggested that Andy contact School Superintendant Paul Finch regarding the use of the High School. The parking and accessibility are ideal. The gym, cafeteria and some of the classrooms were used for the first Expo. Andy will call Paul Finch. Dick said that when they had the Career Day, they used the gym, cafeteria and other areas and the High School was packed with people.

Marge asked what location would be a second choice. Dick said that there are only two possibilities, viz. the High School and the Fairgrounds. She then asked if there would be insurance coverage. Dick responded that the Town would cover that.

#### **USE OF ST. MARGARET'S**

At this point, Town Supervisor Sue Crane joined the meeting. Andy told her about the Committee's plan to hold a Senior Expo in the Fall of 2015 at either the Fairgrounds or the High School. Sue said that the last Expo was held during a week when school was not in session.

Sue told the Committee that the Town was conducting a survey regarding the use of the St. Margaret's building. The Town has agreed that it should not become a retail enterprise although it might be used as a professional building or a multipurpose building. Andy suggested that it might be used as a Senior Center. Sue said that this had been considered by the Board. They have been trying to get Bard College to donate the services of an architect. The building is good, but parking will be a problem. Sue gave copies of the survey to the members of the Committee.

#### **OTHER ISSUES**

Andy asked if anyone could suggest a person to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Nick LaCourte.

Jeanne said that the possibility of the Red Hook Seniors starting a website had been discussed at their meeting and it was decided that they could not afford to do this as maintaining the website would involve a monthly fee. Andy asked if the President of the Seniors could be asked if they would consider a dues increase to allow them to set up a website. Jeanne added that the members have been asked to make up a list of contractors whom they have used and with whom they have been satisfied.

#### **MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 5, 2014 at 9:15 A.M. at the Town Hall

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeanne and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10: 47 A.M.

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