

MINUTES (Approved)
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE
TOWN OF RED HOOK
May 04, 2016

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman, Andrew Kehr, Don Peterson, Angie Haan

Absent: Jeanne Duntz, Rose Rider, Dick Franklin, Nancy Finkle, Marge Roberts

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 30, 2016 MEETING

Chairman Andrew Kehr calls the meeting to order, at 9:34 A.M., and asks for a motion to discuss and/or approve the SSC January meeting minutes. Chairman Kehr asks the committee for comments and revisions. As there are none, he asks for a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. Don Peterson moves to accept the minutes as written, Chairman Kehr seconds, and all are in favor.

Chairman Kehr welcomes Angie Haan, who has attended several meetings, and asks if she would like to become a formal member of the SSC. Ms. Haan replies that she would, and asks what she needs to do. Chairman Kehr states that she needs to submit a letter of interest to the Town Board, and notes that manpower is the critical area of concern at the moment. He further notes that the SSC enjoyed more robust membership in the past, and with all of the new projects involving the proposed community center, there is much that the committee could be doing, but will not be able to do, unless membership increases.

Chairman Kehr next addresses the SSC senior services brochure. He noted that the committee had had a discussion on disclaimer language, as a follow up to AM/PM Homecare's request to be included in the brochure. Chairman Kehr remarks that the Town Attorney, Chris Chale has furnished the SSC with disclaimer language, which all present have in front of them. He further comments that he would like the committee to vote on it, since it would go into the brochure. Don Peterson comments that it should be there. Angie Haan states that it would be very easy for someone to see something listed in the brochure, and infer that the committee was recommending that service.

At 9:55am Chairman Kehr calls for a vote to include the disclaimer language, provided by the Town Attorney, in the Senior Services Committee brochure. The vote is 2 – 0 in favor, with no abstentions. He also informs Anne Rubin that he would like the language to be included with website version of the brochure. Don Peterson comments that the language could be copied and attached to the remaining hard copy brochures. Chairman Kehr remarks that all SSC sponsored events should be reviewed to see if they should also include such language.

Chairman Kehr next updates the committee on the SSC summer food drive, which supports local families, whose children receive free or subsidized breakfasts and lunches through the school, but lose that support in the summertime, when school is no longer in session. Chairman Kehr would like to host the food drive at the proposed community center, but has

no information at present. He notes that the contact person there for programming is Dawn Morrison. Anne Rubin states that she can verify that from the January 2016 SSC meeting minutes, in which Rose Rider identified the community center board members, and each of their responsibilities. Chairman Kehr states that though there is not a lot of time to get the food drive up and running at the community center, he would like to try to do it there to get people to the center. He further states that if it were not to work out, because there is not enough time, the committee could always do it at the Fire House, as it has in the past. He remarks that committee needs to select a date in June, organize two collection times during the day, of a couple of hours each, during which SSC members will be present to collect the donated food, and/or cash donations. The committee also needs to contact Northern Dutchess Community Action Program to come pick up the donations. He also notes that prior to the food drive the committee needs to prepare a flyer, and contact the River Chronicle newspaper to spread the word on the food drive. Chairman Kehr concluded that he would know in a week, or so, whether or not the food drive could take place at the community center, so there would be sufficient time prior to the next SSC meeting on May 25th to ascertain where the food drive would take place.

Chairman Kehr next addresses the role of the SSC in connection with support offered by the Ascienzo Family Foundation to the proposed Red Hook Community Center, in developing programming. He reads an email from Nick Ascienzo, directed to the SSC as a follow up to the presentation Mr. Ascienzo made to the committee in January of 2016. He notes that the foundation is very committed to giving financial and practical support to the community center and to the SSC, and that the committee urgently needs to address the low membership issue, in order to be able to take advantage of this generous offer. Chairman Kehr would like to see the SSC attend a community center board meeting or vice versa, so that programming for the community center can begin to move forward in a more concrete manner. The committee considers the suggestion of distributing a short survey to the community in order to gain more information about the programming the community would like to see implemented.

Finally Chairman Kehr discusses potential technical assistance for seniors events, for which members of the senior community could sign up, and local high school students would be on hand to assist them in addressing issues with their phones, tablets and laptops, and would help them optimize their use of such electronic devices. Angie Haan describes of the Red Hook Library's tech assistance program, which takes place on Saturday mornings. She states that participants must make an appointment, and that the program's capacity is limited, so that additional events offering technical assistance to seniors would be welcome. Anne Rubin mentions that she can use her contact information with the Town for people to sign up. Chairman Kehr notes that it would be advisable for the SSC to know in advance how many people were scheduled to attend the event, so that the committee could provide a corresponding number of students to assist. Ms. Haan also notes that it would be a good idea to provide fun ways for seniors to use their electronics, beyond technical assistance. Anne Rubin comments that she read an article that described the senior gaming community as growing quite rapidly. Chairman Kehr states that he would like to start with a day in July, and a day in August, and expand to more days, as needed. He further states that he would like to select a weekday, and organize a three hour session during the day, and a two hour session

in the evening, for those people who needed a working relative, or friend to bring them. The committee discussed a flyer for the tech assistance event, and to whom the flyer would be directed. Chairman Kehr notes that he would like the event flyer to be directed to local churches, civic organizations, schools, and asked if anyone had a contact person within the local coalition of churches, the Ministerium. Angie Haan responded that she has a contact at her church who attends the Ministerium meetings.

Chairman Kehr briefly summarizes the meeting, and schedules the next SSC meeting for May 25, 2016 and notes that this is a couple of weeks before the SSC summer food drive.

At 10:55 Don Peterson moves to adjourn the meeting, Chairman Kehr seconds, and the meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, by Anne Rubin on May 04, 2016