

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

Feb. 4, 2010

ROLL CALL

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman Sheila Franklin, Secretary
 Betty Bader Richard Franklin
 Jeanne Duntz Rose Rider
 Jennifer Fivelsdal

Also Present: Micki Strawinski, TB Liaison; Doug Strawinski, Chairman, Rec Park
 Commission

Absent: Carl Dowden, Susan Goldstein, Kelly Mosher, Judy Walsh

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:29 A.M. and handed out copies of his latest report to the Town Board. He introduced Doug Strawinski, Chairman of the Rec Park Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JAN. 7, 2010 MEETING

Andy asked if there were any changes or other modifications to the Minutes. Betty suggested one change and then made a motion to accept the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Dick and all were in favor.

FOOD DRIVE

Andy said that Paul Finch had given approval for the food drive flyer to be distributed via kid mail. He said that 478 copies would be needed for K to 2, twenty one packs of 25 for grades 3 to 5, the same for the Middle School and 802 for the High School. After discussion, it was decided to expend \$28.68 for the copies for grades K to 2 and \$31.50 for the copies for grades 3 to 5 for a total of \$60.18. The copies will be made at Copy Cat, where the town has an account. Andy pointed out that the Committee only has a budget of \$300; however he did not foresee any other major expenditures. Andy asked Rose about the procedure for making this expenditure and she advised him to see Debbie Marks.

Judy said that she had put up the signs for which she was responsible. Sheila indicated that she had made all the contacts requested by the Committee. Micki said she contacted the radio stations. She will find out if Harry has left flyers at the libraries. Betty said that she was planning to make her contacts for the drive that day. Rose said that she would announce the Drive at the AARP meeting. Jeanne will talk to the Exercise Group and Carl will talk to Rotary. Dick will talk to the seniors who meet at the Dutch Reformed Church in Rhinebeck. Jennifer will do a blog. Micki has e-mailed the Bard community and will also send out a notice to those on her e-mail list.

There was discussion about when and how the food would be delivered to Community Action. It was felt that boxes would not be necessary as most people would be bringing their donations in bags. Bob McKeon will pick up the donations and take them to

Community Action. Andy asked Micki to thank Bob on behalf of the Committee. Betty suggested that the carload of donations from Bard could be taken directly to Community Action rather than going first to the Firehouse. Micki agreed to arrange that.

Andy said that he has spoken to Sophia Miele at the agency and is coordinating delivery with her. He will tell her that someone will be delivering the donations between 3:00 P.M. and 3:15 P.M. Dick offered to speak with Pete and Bucky Coon. He will see to it that the Firehouse sign is put up. Jennifer offered to take photographs.

Andy asked if there will be a representative from the Committee at the Firehouse. Jennifer and Micki offered to go. Andy encouraged everyone who can get there to do so. He felt it would be appropriate to talk to those who make donations and offer the thanks of the Committee.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Dick handed out copies of the material he had prepared detailing what people should be doing in order to be prepared for a disaster. He felt that people should have this material readily available in their homes and suggested that it might be posted on the refrigerator. He will be adding a section on pets at the end as well as a listing of radio stations and local shelters. He asked for any comments or suggestions as he had to leave the meeting early. There was a consensus that Dick had done a wonderful job putting together this material.

Sheila said that the material would lend itself to a brochure format and is about the same length as the Senior News, which is three double sided pages. A question was raised as to the possibility of reducing the information to one page. Dick responded that he felt that he could not cover the essential information in only one page. Andy agreed that one page could only include very superficial information and he did not want to see important information deleted. There was consensus that the material should be sent to everyone for comments and then it should go on the website. Afterwards, the Committee will discuss further distribution. Rose said that she could approach AARP for a donation for the printing of a brochure. Andy thanked her for making that suggestion.

Andy wrapped up the discussion by asking that the Committee review the material and send any modifications to Sheila. There will be further discussion at the next meeting.

SENIOR PROGRAMMING AT THE RECREATION PARK

Andy invited Doug Strawinski, Chairman of the Rec Park Commission, to discuss his idea of using the rec park for senior activities during the spring and summer. Doug said that most of the programming at the park is for kids. There are usually about 800 children in the programs with a staff of about fifty. The Commission would like to expand their programming to include seniors and they have the funding to do this. Doug showed the Committee a map of the planned expansion of the park and said that it is anticipated that these plans will be carried out over a long period of time. Several of the local residents have contributed or offered to contribute to this project by donating

elevation maps, bulldozer work, excavation, etc. Andy noted that it is ideal to have community volunteers contributing to the community park.

Doug spoke about the walking trail and suggested that a weekly walk might be organized. There could be a table with coffee and donuts. He asked the Committee for suggestions. After discussion, the following suggestions were offered: bocce; horseshoes; a table for cards and board games; stations along the walking trail for exercising; ping pong and senior Olympics. Doug said that he would look into the possibility of obtaining exercise equipment which could be used along the walking trail. He said that the deadline for a senior schedule would be mid-May. Nothing happens at the park until spring when school lets out, he said. Andy suggested the planning of a weekly morning activity in the spring and an afternoon activity in the summer (as the summer activities for the children are usually in the morning). Micki suggested a joint activity with the children.

A consensus was reached that the first program should be a walking activity with healthy snacks available afterwards. Andy thanked Doug for attending the meeting. Doug will go back to his Commission and present the ideas which were discussed. He accepted Andy's invitation to attend the next meeting of the Senior Services Committee on March 4th.

MEDICARE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Betty said that she has contacted the OFA and they will be calling Sue Crane, Town Supervisor. Andy will coordinate the date for the meeting with Sue McCann, Town Clerk, and Nina Lynch of the OFA. Betty said that the meeting will be directed at people approaching 65. Andy will try to schedule the event in the evening.

FREE BARD CONCERTS

Micki announced that Bob McKeon is arranging for a free shuttle bus to bring residents of Red Hook Commons to the free Bard music programs. They are all scheduled for Sundays at 3:00 P.M. At least thirty free tickets have been set aside for seniors for each performance. Andy asked Micki to send the publicity flyer to Sheila, who will have it put on the website and PANDA. Rose will announce the events at the AARP meetings. Micki said that on April 10th there will be a free performance at Alice Tully Hall in New York City and transportation is being arranged. She will provide further details as they are available.

Micki also mentioned the Trustee Leadership Program at Bard which is directed by Paul Marienthal. The goal of the program is to involve students in community service and they are presently looking for new projects. Jeanne asked if the students might volunteer to do work with seniors. Micki gave Andy a brochure describing the program and suggested that he contact Paul Marienthal.

NEW BUSINESS**FREE TAX ASSISTANCE**

Town Supervisor Sue Crane has expressed interest in providing free tax preparation assistance to seniors. Sheila mentioned that such assistance is provided at the Dutch Reformed Church in Rhinebeck. Pat Anderson of United Way and Colleen Mooney of the AARP Tax Aide Foundation are the local coordinators of this program. Andy will contact them to learn more about the program.

BARD LLI TOURS

Volunteers are needed to lead tours of Red Hook and Barrytown and provide historical information. Andy asked anyone who is interested to contact him.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Andy said that Committee reports are now being submitted to the Town Board on the fourth Wednesday of the month. As this date presents a conflict for him, he asked if anyone could attend this meeting for him. Rose offered to do so as she has to attend the meeting anyhow.

ALZHEIMER'S SEMINAR

Betty announced that there will be an Alzheimer's seminar at St. John's Church. The date is to be announced; however, the contact person is Jackie Fenaroli, 758-9497.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on March 4, 2010 at 9:15 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Betty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Andy and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin
Secretary, Senior Services Committee