

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

December 1, 2011

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman, Carl Dowden, Betty Bader, Jeanne Duntz, Richard Franklin, Kelly Mosher, Nick LaCourte, Rose Rider

Absent: None

Also Present: Sue Crane, Town Supervisor, Betty A'Brial, Nancy Finkle

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:16 A.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, OCT. 6, 2011 MEETING**

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

**SPEAKER PROGRAM**

Andy said that St. Francis Home Care Services provides talks at various sites in the area throughout the year. As they are in high demand, their earliest available date was Wednesday, October 17, 2012. He arranged for a 6:30 P.M. presentation on that date. The event will be promoted both by St. Francis Home Care Services and the Committee.

**TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

Andy said that he feels that transportation is still a major issue. With the discontinuation of Dial A Ride services, there may be people who are falling between the cracks. Cynthia Ruiz, the Transportation Administrator for the Loop Bus system, has offered to come and give a talk about transportation options. She is willing to address the Committee or the community at large. Andy suggested that she first speak to the Committee and then a date and place could be arranged for her to address the community. The talk might be held at Red Hook Commons. She will be coming to the next meeting of the Committee on January 5, 2012.

It was suggested that the Loop Bus might arrange a stop at Hannaford. This question could be put to Ms. Ruiz at the next meeting. Sue said that the key issue will be to get the shoppers home. Betty Bader said that they would have to be ready at a specific time in order to be accommodated by a bus schedule.

Andy said that he had spoken with the Manager of Hannaford. They do not have a pick up service; however it might be possible for Hannaford to arrange for people to call in advance and the store could pack their groceries for pick up. Northern Dutchess Caregivers provides assistance with medical appointments, but there is no service for shoppers. Andy will invite the Hannaford Manager, Tom McHall, and the focus of the next meeting will be transportation issues.

Nick said that he has the list of people who used Dial A Ride Services. Thirteen of the 26 people on that list reside at Red Hook Commons. There are several new residents at the Commons who have vehicles and they are helping their neighbors who do not drive. Nick said that he arranged for the Commons' newsletter to include an item on helping neighbors. He said that although the problem has not been completely resolved, progress has been made. Sue asked if there was a contact person at the Commons. Nick said that there is no coordinator.

Dick suggested that a flyer could be put on the website urging people to assist their neighbors and be more aware of their needs. It was also suggested that this material could be sent to the Hudson River Sampler. Betty Bader asked about transportation from Provost Park in Tivoli, Sue said that the residents are looking out for one another and shopping trips are arranged about once a week. However there are only 24 residents at Provost Park while there are 96 residents at Red Hook Commons.

Dick suggested that Stop and Shop could be asked about initiating a program. Andy agreed that the Committee should not speak only to Hannaford. Rose said that the Loop Bus goes to Stop & Shop. Dick pointed out that Mid-Hudson Medical and Eye Associates will soon be opening at the old Grand Union site next to Stop & Shop. This could make it convenient to take the bus to a medical appointment and then shop afterwards.

#### **PANDA PROJECT**

Andy said that the Committee was hoping to utilize Cathy O'Connor's expertise to get this project off the ground. One of the topics which the Committee had targeted for a presentation was disaster preparedness. Andy asked Dick about participating in this project and Dick said that, due to his injury, he felt he would be out of the loop for about another month. Andy therefore asked for a sub-committee to work on the project. Dick and Rose offered to be on the sub-committee and Andy said that he will be calling Cathy.

#### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Nick noted that a facility in Poughkeepsie had to be evacuated during Hurricane Irene. He raised concerns about the possibility that Red Hook Commons might have to be evacuated during an emergency and said that there should be some planning for such a possibility. Sue said that during the emergency, the Firehouse was opened as soon as it was needed. Although only a few people used it, it remained open for two nights and then was closed. The Town Hall has a generator and was opened as a Warming Center. This was announced on the radio and on PANDA; however only five people came as most residents did not know it was open. For a large group of people such as the residents of Red Hook Commons, it might be necessary to open the High School.

Nick asked who people can call if the power is out for an extended period of time. Sue said all Town Supervisors who want it can get a daily update on the power situation from Central Hudson. She also said that she can be called. Dick said that Central Hudson has a page on their website with good emergency information and telephone numbers.

Nick asked where the residents of the Commons can go if they have to evacuate. As the Commons is in the Village of Red Hook, Sue said that the Manager of the facility should get in touch with her or Ed Blundell, the Mayor of the Village.

Dick said that the Disaster Preparedness Committee has been arranging to host a presentation for local organizations, including Bard. The group had been considering conducting a drill; however after Hurricane Irene, this was not necessary. The presentation will focus on how the community handled the Hurricane Irene emergency. All the administrators of the local towns and villages as well as representatives from the agricultural organizations will be invited. The meeting will take place in January at Bard. After that the Committee will report back to the Town and Village and provide relevant information to the public. Dick also said that the Disaster Preparedness Committee is planning to update the disaster preparedness booklet and can include suggestions about watching out for neighbors. The Secretary said that the document is on the web for review.

Rose said that there should be a telephone number people can call to find out what emergency sites are open. She suggested that it might be an answering machine. Sue said that she will look into the possibility of having a message on the Town's telephone number to give people emergency information.

#### **SAFE AT HOME PROGRAM**

The Safe At Home Program is a free service being offered by Northern Dutchess Hospital to residents of Rhinebeck. Upon request, an OT goes to a home with a contractor to assess the needs of the residents and determine what changes could be made to the home to accommodate those needs. At present the OT is Laura Watson. Andy asked if the program might be extended to those in need in Red Hook. Rose said that the Rhinebeck Rotary is sponsoring the program and suggested that perhaps the Rotary of Red Hook might be interested in sponsoring it in Red Hook. Rob Latimer is currently President of that organization.

It was mentioned that Northern Dutchess Pharmacy has wheelchairs on loan free of charge. After discussion, it was determined that many of the local churches have donated medical items which those in need can borrow. Andy asked Carl if he could contact the Rhinebeck Rotary and find out if Red Hook can tap into the Safe At Home Program.

#### **SENIOR NEWSLETTER**

Andy said that the Newsletter has to be updated to include the issues which the Committee has been discussing, e.g. transportation, emergency telephone numbers. etc. Rose suggested that an item on what to do with medical equipment which is no longer needed might be included. The Secretary advised that the document is on the website for review. Andy said that via e-mail he would make assignments to the committee members to review the various sections of the document for accuracy. When the group meets, the proposed changes can be reviewed. Dick said that the brochure was given out at the Apple Blossom Festival and there was an active interest in it.

### **ENERGY PRESENTATIONS**

Andy advised the Committee that he had sent thank you notes to all the presenters as well as to Mr. McHall at Hannaford, thanking him for the donation of food.

### **COMMITTEE CONTACT LIST**

The Committee contact list will be updated to include Nancy Finkle and Betty A'Brial. The Secretary will be sending updated lists to the members.

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION NIGHT**

Andy announced that Employee Recognition Night will be held on Dec. 12, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. He urged everyone to attend.

### **PENNY SOCIAL TO BENEFIT HURRICANE IRENE VICTIMS**

It was announced that there will be a Penny Social at the Firehouse on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 to benefit those in Windham who lost their homes to Hurricane Irene. The contact person is Kim Phillips, who lives in Red Hook.

### **FOOD DRIVE**

Betty Bader said that the Seniors are asking about a Food Drive. Andy said that the weather has made it difficult to conduct a Food Drive in the winter. Betty asked if the Committee could discuss it in January. It could follow the same guidelines as the previous drives. Only the flyer would have to be changed and disseminated. After discussion, it was decided to have the next food drive at the Firehouse on March 20th and March 27th between 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. Andy said that he would call Community Action and advise them. Sue will contact Wendy Coon to see if the Auxiliary could cover evening hours so that people could come after work.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on January 5, 2012 at 9:15 A.M.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Betty Bader and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Minutes submitted by:

Sheila Franklin

Secretary, Sr. Services Committee