

Hastings-on-Hudson Senior Council  
Minutes  
March 25, 2024

Attendance: Polly Bijur, Patricia Bloom, Miriam Budin, Joyce DeVilbiss, Barbara Dormont, Iris Dudman, Gail Durante, Beth Fonfrias, Tarry Hum, Marilyn Meese, Anne Russak, Robert Sanborn, Paula Scheiber

Minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Anne Russak's report.

FISH desperately needs more drivers. Anne said she has loaned several wheelchairs from the medical equipment loan program. Seventy people attended her St. Patrick's Day party. The PBA is sponsoring Bingo for Seniors on April 16.

Updates

The Village authorized our name change to the Senior Council. Iris submitted a \$7600 grant proposal to the AARP for bulletin boards. She is monitoring efforts to replace the Enterprise. There is a Dobbs Ferry group working on a weekly paper to serve the same four Rivertowns.

Support of [Medical Aid in Dying Act](#) Assembly Bill # A955A, Senate Bill # 2445A

Mayor Armacost told Polly it was not appropriate for the Senior Council to write a letter of support but individuals could write or call their State Senator, [Andrea Stewart-Cousins](#) and Assembly member [Mary Jane Shimsky](#). We talked briefly about sponsoring a panel discussion on end-of-life choices. The matter was tabled for another time.

Benches on the Aqueduct

The Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct will bring up the topic at its next meeting. The Senior Council unanimously approved sending a letter of support to the group. Marilyn Meese will write the letter. The Aqueduct is a state park so the benches will need state approval.

Reports on Senior Centers in Other Towns

Joyce, Beth and Pam visited senior centers in Dobbs Ferry, Irvington and Tarrytown as well as the Town of Greenburgh. They will distribute their report in the next week or two to see if anyone has additional questions for the directors at the centers. We will discuss their findings at our next meeting.

Intergenerational Activities

Pat and Polly met with Lori Walsh, Chair of the Hastings Youth Council, and two students from the high school club, KIDS (Kids Involved in Doing Service). The first activity will be April 18 6-7:15 at the Community Center for games and pizza. All Senior Council members are encouraged to attend. You must RSVP to Anne by April 11 at (914) 478-2380 or send an email to her at [senioroutreach@hastingsgov.org](mailto:senioroutreach@hastingsgov.org). Anne prepared a flier she will send out with her April calendar. The next event is scheduled for May 23.

Property Tax Break for Low Income Seniors

Joyce and Polly spoke at the Board of Trustees meeting against a proposal that would have defined income in a way that would make it more difficult for seniors to get exemptions from a portion of their property taxes. Their arguments were persuasive and the Village dropped the proposal. The issue may also come before the school board and Beth will monitor the agenda and notify the Council if it is on the agenda.

The next meeting is April 29 at 3:15 at the Community Center. Also note the May date has been changed to May 20<sup>th</sup>.