

SENIOR COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2019

Present: Polly Bijur, Cynthia Alligood, Pam Knell, Paula Scheiber, Nancy Balaban, Miriam Budin, Sandy Selikson, Kate Washton

Introductions were made and Pam Knell and Sandy Selikson welcomed into the group. The average length of time lived in Hastings is 25 years with a range from one year to 58 years and many interesting professions!

There will a **Transportation Forum on October 17 in White Plains.** Geri Dixon and Sue Smith who have worked with Nancy Balaban for FISH will attend.

Assistive hearing devices: The availability of assistive hearing devices for Village meetings was discussed. Nancy said there were 10 in the Orr room but doesn't think people know about them. Paula and Kate will look into getting more information. Miriam will speak with Mary Beth Murphy, the Village Manager, about whether there are these devices for public meetings such as the Board of Trustees meeting.

Computer Class: Polly set up a computer class "**Computer Tips for Seniors**". The first class held on October 4th was attended by 7 people. Nancy added a Tip: movies are free from Kanopy.com online! There will be three more sessions of this class.

Aging in Place (AIP): Polly gave a brief review of the May meeting with Lynn Reichgott of The Center for Aging in Place. The number of volunteers required to provide comprehensive services for seniors is significant and Hastings alone does not have sufficient numbers. It is possible that someone on the committee may want to pursue developing connections with other Rivertown communities as a possible way of expanding the number of volunteers and the kinds of services provided.

Assistance with household chores: We talked about exploring the feasibility of some aspects of AIP, particularly the idea of providing modest home assistance such as helping with screwing in a lightbulb, taking out airconditioners etc. This is something that has been discussed many times in this committee. Anne Russak has been talking with the police chief about issues related to volunteers going into people's homes and Cynthia put her in touch with a group in Rockland that has been doing this. Cynthia also suggested talking about it to the Village lawyer. Sandy mentioned Ask Umbrella, a non-profit group, which for a \$20 fee sends vetted "handy-people" to perform the required service. Nancy cautioned that handy-people in the area might be unhappy with this service as it may be seen as cut rate competition. Cynthia also mentioned connecting seniors with the Repair Cafe which invited the community to come and fix their broken items for free. Food delivery is another service some seniors might need. Cynthia will check with Foodtown to see what is involved in food delivery to seniors. It was agreed that at the next meeting, the issue of how to arrange for these kinds of services and who is eligible will be on the agenda.

Housing: Polly met with Betsy Biddle and James Rosenman at Andrus this summer, along with Anne and Mary Beth Murphy to get a clearer picture of their plans for development of senior housing at Andrus. Kate attended the Board of Trustees meeting where the regulations related to accessory apartments were loosened and the definitions of senior facilities were realigned to match New York State in order to facilitate looking at zoning issues related to housing for seniors. Polly and Kate will form a subcommittee on housing for seniors and anyone interested is welcome to join. This will be part of the process for developing a revised senior component for the Village's Comprehensive Plan. There will a **Senior Housing Forum at the County Center in White Plains on Thursday, October 10 from 8:30 to 10 AM.**

Brochure: Updating the senior brochure has been discussed many times. Miriam will work on it and we hoped that Amy would help with the graphics or that we can find someone else willing to do so. Miriam mentioned a number of ways the information could be presented.

Intergenerational activities: The possibility of setting up an **Intergenerational Bingo** with middle school kids and seniors on a school holiday was discussed at a Youth Council meeting Polly attended. November 12 is a possibility. Polly will follow up with Anne and Elizabeth Galletta from the Youth Council.

Nancy Balaban has been honored by the county and named to the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. There will be a luncheon on December 6 honoring those selected and all are invited to purchase tickets. The number to call is 914-747-0519. Nancy brought a copy of a wonderful H-on-H coloring book designed by Amy Huelsman.

Pam, new to Hastings, filled us in on the **excellent programs that Anne arranged this summer**, mentioning a trip to Essex, CT in particular. As a new addition to the community she is thrilled with the services at the Community Center that Anne has created.

The **next meeting** of the Senior Council will be on Monday, **October 28th at 5 PM** at the Community Center.

Submitted: October 8, 2019
Kate Washton