

MINUTES - Committee MEETING - HELPING HANDS UNIVERSITY PARK - MARCH 19, 2019

PRESENT: Loretta Vitale Saks, Sabrina Meyers, Linda Verrill, Ned Goldberg, Bob Saks

FEB. 2019 MINUTES - Approved

NEW POSTCARD - Positive response from the Committee on its design, completed by Sabrina. It was mailed to all current members and volunteers

HIRING A PRN GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER - Linda consulted by email with town attorney Ferguson, who expressed some reservations, though she didn't say it couldn't be done. She asked if it has been done elsewhere, if it duplicates county services. Loretta mentioned that she's been speaking with a county social worker and learning a great deal about limited financial services for older residents. Loretta will prepare an insert for the town newsletter about services and programs available from the county. She then discussed meeting Shaunda Bellamy, owner/president of Pickett Fences (see next item).

PICKETT FENCES - This is a county-wide program that offers services to seniors, provides funds and social work assistance where needed. It could make it unnecessary to pursue hiring our own geriatric social worker. The Committee urged Loretta to learn more.

DATA ON OUR UTILIZATION OF VOLUNTEERS - We have 34 trained volunteers, about half of whom have been involved with service requests. Ned had prepared a detailed report on the service from volunteers, which the Committee reviewed and expressed appreciation about. Ned noted that our online requests for help are usually filled quickly

PROGRAM IDEAS - The recent meeting of the Activities Committee, which Sabrina chairs, produced "all kinds of ideas."

- Concern was expressed about engaging more of our volunteers as well as keeping volunteers interested when we're not getting many requests for help.
 - A gardening oriented Work Day was suggested as a way to get larger numbers of volunteers involved. It would help a few elderly neighbors prepare their lawns and gardens for the spring. It would include food at the end of the work. Linda suggested we could offer an incentive, as the Ivy League offers a bandana to people who work a certain number of work days.
- Loretta thinks that Susy Murphy, owner of Debra Levy Eldercare Associates would be happy to speak on any topic related to planning for aging in place. Her talk could be co-sponsored with Dave Brosch's Saturday series, though the prohibition by the host church against bringing in food is a drawback.
- A 2nd Saturday program on seniors and scams, which is being planned with the assistance of the Police Chief, is scheduled for May 11.
- A get-together of "crafty people" is also scheduled for April 3.
- Howard Gleckman was suggested by Loretta. He's an expert in the field of aging. We could engage him as speaker for the Route One Aging Communities group which is under discussion,

as a collective endeavor of all of the communities along Rte. One. See <https://howardgleckman.com/> for further information about Howard.

- When people RSVP, good to ask them how they heard about the event.

COLLEGE HEIGHTS ESTATES - We need to continue to clarify ways in which it might be possible to include interested CHE residents as volunteers (not members). Linda is still discussing this with attorney Ferguson.

WASHINGTON CONSUMERS' CHECKBOOK - They want to offer a discounted subscription to our seniors. We need to be careful that we don't seem to be endorsing this one out of many magazines. The announcement of the availability of the discounted rate should include "For informational purposes only and does not indicate an endorsement."

BY-LAWS - When we were looking at becoming a 501(c)3, we began working on by-laws. Ned will look at the ordinance that made us an official Town committee to see whether it references by-laws. If we do decide to have by-laws, we can add the job descriptions for Committee officers as well as HHUP members and volunteers.

Our next meeting is the third Tuesday in April, April 16.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Saks, secretary

TO DO:

Loretta - Review the ByLaws. Learn more about Pickett Fences. Prepare insert for town newsletter on services available from the county. Continue to work with Rt. One Corridor group and explore interest in Howard Gleckman as a speaker.

Sabrina - Work with activities committee on programs detailed above.

Linda - Continue consultations with Suellen as needed re TAF, CHE memberships, and oversee cash flow in and out. Bring strategic plan to next meeting