

Safe at Home Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2023 3:00 pm  
Meeting Place, Cook and Larder

Attendance: Joyce Lapenn, Shirley Bresler, Patti Rohrlich, Lynda Brenner, Rene Gibson, Natalie Kahan, Joyce Ferrentino, Timi Bates, Dee Crawford, Lynne Colclough, Mary Lou Kersten (secretary)

### Coffee Hour

Joyce L reviewed the stats from 2022 and 2023 attendance and the amounts received as donations. Attendance and donations in 2023 increased. To get a handle on how much is being donated by the public in attendance, SAH committee members decided to hold off on their donations for the next couple of coffee hours.

November 28 – speaker is Pastor Squires who will speak on gratitude. Lynne will do the press release. Announcements were given out for posting in various public places to members of the committee.

December coffee hour will be on a Wednesday, December 13, 10:00-11:30 am.

Joyce is working on the flyer, it will be decorative and have a more festive flair. Christine Dellea will be performing seasonal music. We had offered \$50.00 payment. Her normal fee for nonprofits is \$75.00. Timi will pay the differential. Kelly Sweet, owner of the Mt. Washington, is hosting this entirely, providing the venue, coffee, pastries and fruit. She is also going to decorate the room and have floral arrangements on the table which will be given as door prizes. Joyce F will do introductions and welcoming remarks. The press release will go out December 4<sup>th</sup>. Shirley will write up a description of the holiday event and it, along with the decorative flyer announcement, will be given to Meg Wormley for inclusion in the Hillsdale Town Newsletter the end of November. Small gifts will be given, mugs, sand pails with pet safe ice melt pellets, shopping bags. There will a sign at the gift table asking people to pick out one gift.

January 30 – Dr. Boutin will be unavailable and a new speaker needs to be recruited.

The first choice is John Farrell, a talented singer who has volunteered to perform at one of the hours. Lynne will ask him if he is available. If not, Patti will talk to David Grubin, a renown poet to see if he might be available. Other options are asking the Hillsdale Historians or a specialist on elder law. They can also be considered for other coffee hours in 2024.

February 27 – Joyce F found a speaker who will talk on winter “blues”

March – discussed asking Pam Cook, Hillsdale tax assessor, to speak on tax deductions for seniors.

April – Hope to reschedule Dr. Boutin. Mary Lou will confirm.

Future potential speakers were discussed and Natalie had a suggestion of someone who could speak on aging well. It was also suggested that we get speakers who are a bit more light hearted to offset all the discussions we have on aging.

### Senior Chore Services Day

Natalie said that it went well despite the lower number of volunteers. She suggests that in the future we recruit the volunteers first and then find out how many people can use assistance. There were 10 volunteers on October 28, the rain date. 8 different people were helped at their homes. Some of the jobs were quite extensive and needed more than one or two volunteers. The post card is effective, people requested help as a result of the mailer. It was suggested that next year we could take an ad in the newspaper calling for volunteers before asking who needs help. Lynne will also see how much it costs to put an insert in the Shoppers Guide which would be delivered to Hillsdale mailing

addresses. Natalie was thanked for her coordination of volunteers and the clients who were served.

### **Resource Guide**

We received some very nice thank you notes from people who have found them helpful. There are about 100 guides left over for distribution. They were mailed out to Hillsdale seniors in October.

### **Town Board Meeting**

Joyce will read a statement from the SAH committee thanking Chris Kersten, Town Supervisor, for his help in endorsing and promoting of the work of the committee. She hopes to stimulate future town board members to participate and be helpful to the committee.

### **Wednesday Walks**

Timi suggests that we do not hold the walks December through March with possible unsafe walking conditions due to weather. We should promote their value for exercising and socializing and resume Wednesday Walks in April. Shirley will include this in the next town newsletter.

### **New Initiatives**

The committee needs to think about new programs for 2024. We will not be doing a workshop. Patti talked about a program called the Third Act. Joyce talked about a program that involves seniors going to high schools to inform and educate students on the necessity to vote for a stronger democracy. We need to learn what related topics are already taught in the school civics classes. Joyce L also asked for a volunteer to take on the role of the SAH committee leadership.

### **Mailing Update**

Joyce will write up the quarterly mailing which will go out to seniors December 11. Various pertinent topics will be included.

Next Meeting, Dec. 15, 2023, 3:00 pm, Friday. Cook and Larder