

Safe at Home Committee Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2025 3:00 pm
Meeting Place, Cook and Larder

Attendance: Joyce Ferrentino, Joyce Lapenn, Lynda Brenner, Lynne Colclough, Dee Crawford, Natalie Kahan, Patti Rohrlich, Timi Bates, Mary Lou Kersten

Coffee Hour

November - Patti, point person. David Wurth will need paper plates and plastic forks for serving. Lynne will supply the forks. He needs to use the oven at the Hillsdale House, Joyce F is trying to get approval and earlier entry. Will be willing to pay HH towards this additional use. Patti is working on getting the recipes in advance and will have enough printed for distribution. David will be reimbursed for his food purchases.

December – Two invitations were presented for review. The invite with a firetruck was chosen to emphasize that the holiday party will take place at the firehouse. Agreed that more color should be added to the invite. Invites will be sent to town board members and the newly elected members. Joyce L will ask Nico to invite other Hillsdale Firehouse volunteers to attend. Cups, flatware, plates will be supplied by the firehouse. Joyce L will purchase colorful special plastic glasses, sparkling apple cider and festive napkins. Patti will get colorful tablecloths and provide table decorations. Patti discussed the layout of the hall to facilitate socializing and best usage.

Firehouse provides music through their speaker system.

Patti discussed ways to do a gift exchange using a fun poem which Patti and her daughter Suzi created based on The Night Before Christmas. There will be a free raffle for three special gifts, Cook and Larder basket, large decorative wreath and a painting. Patti did a count of gifts on hand, 20. So that we have ample gifts for attendees we are encouraged to bring two additional wrapped gifts, nothing expensive, just some useful piece. Rene and Dee have already contributed gifts.

Committee members should be there in advance to help with set up, around 9:00.

The Firehouse will put a notice for the holiday party on their exterior announcement board. It will read:

Welcome Seniors, Safe At Home Holiday Party, December 9, 10-11:30 AM

Joyce L will find out from Nico, as a point of reference, what the base fee is to rent the hall.

January – Wendy Garfield will talk about how to protect oneself from falling as we get older.

Joyce L will follow up with Wendy for a photo and updated information. Joyce F would like to set up a table for Healthy Neighborhoods at this coffee hour to encourage people to sign up.

February - Thad Hershberger will speak on the importance of sleep. Lynn, point person. He will need to use a projector.

March – Mary Lou could ask Brenda Shufelt to speak on the history of the whaling industry in Hudson. Chair yoga proposed speaker not available in March.

April – Linda Leavitt, on gardening. Lynda point person

May – Joyce L would like to be responsible since it is Older Americans Month, an annual observance since 1963 started by President Kennedy. An opportunity to celebrate the achievements of older Americans and discuss needs and services. Possibly Dr. Green, who wrote a book on the aging process, would be a good speaker for this month.

June – Patti knows a musician who might be available that month.

Town newsletter submissions for coffee hours need to be in by the 20th of the month.

Background information on the speakers is needed before then to meet this deadline. Joyce F is not responsible for gathering information on the various speakers that have been recruited by those speakers where she was not the responsible. Please email this information to her in advance to meet the deadline.

Taconic Hills School Volunteer Program

Stories Across Generations:Senior Volunteer Reading to Children

Joyce L heard from Jessica Miller at the Taconic Hills office of instruction and staff development. Ms Miller said that the school will host a volunteer orientation meeting for “Stories Across Generations” on Wednesday, December 3, 11:00 am in S112.

Joyce F reported that School administrator, Dr. Torres, said they do not currently need any additional volunteers.

Office of the Aging – special meal program

The Columbia County Office of the Aging will be offering grab-and-go meals for our seniors, which will include a sandwich, milk, and a small dessert, in response to recent SNAP cuts. To reserve a meal call, 518-672-7134. There are two locations for meal pickup. On **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**, it will be at the **Copake Town Hall** on Mountain View Road, with a pickup time of around 11:30 am. On **Tuesdays, Thursdays**, and **Fridays** at the **Copake Rec Center** located in the Copake Park, also on Mountain View Road, around 11:40 a.m.

Office of aging encourages townships to share the programs and offerings they have for seniors. Joyce F mentioned what other townships offer, holiday card making for friends and servicemen, bingo nights, potluck luncheons, trips. The office of the aging newsletter is free and one can sign up for it. Go to the website for the Columbia County office of the aging and use the sign up link on the site.

Help stock the blessing box This is an ongoing community responsibility.

Fostering connections Discussed possible ways to encourage more socialization. Various ideas were suggested. One possibility would be to set aside one month’s coffee hour just for discussion. An idea could be given out as a topic and ask attendees to share their experiences. Concept needs more development.

Next Meeting, January 23, 2026 3:00 pm, Friday at Cook and Larder