

Safe at Home Committee Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2026 3:00 pm
Meeting Place, Cook and Larder

Attendance: Joyce Lapenn, Lynda Brenner, Rene Gibson,
Natalie Kahan, Patti Rohrlach, Timi Bates, Mary Lou Kersten

Coffee Hour

Due to the upcoming snow storm there was discussion as to whether we need a cancellation policy for coffee hours. It was decided that a policy is not needed but rather should be determined on an "as needed basis". Regarding the Jan 27 coffee hour, the probable cancellation will be determined on Monday and word will go out to Laura to send an email announcement, Rodney will be notified and a committee member will go to the Hillsdale House for anyone who did not get the cancellation message. This lead to planning what to do last minute if a speaker can't show. Patti has prepared cards which can be distributed to facilitate discussion and socialization at individual tables instead of a formal presentation. The card questions will be reviewed to make sure they are neutral and likely to generate talking. Patti suggested a few of us go to her house to review the cards.

February - Thad Hershberger will speak on the importance of sleep. Lynn, point person. He will need to use a projector. Lynn might not be there and we will need someone else to introduce. Joyce L to confirm.

March – Mary Lou will not be at this coffee hour. She will ask Brenda Shufelt for a month in the fall. It was decided that this will be a bingo coffee hour. Patti will ask her daughter Suzi to help with these arrangements.

April – Linda Leavitt, on gardening. Lynda point person. Lynda will ask Linda to talk about spring garden preparation.

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. Dr. Green, who wrote a book on the aging process, would be a good speaker for this month. Joyce L will contact him. Jeremy Boal is a possible back up.

June – Picnic instead of a coffee hour. Perhaps Haldane could provide music.

The Bank of Greene County has been asked for a grant of \$500.00 towards the picnic expenses.

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

We need 2 more volunteers. The program is going well and the connection with the school is excellent. Joyce L will develop a back up plan for volunteers who can not make their designated day. There are about 12 children who participate in the program.

Grants

BOGC has been asked for \$500.00 for the Safe at Home picnic. The Berkshire Taconic Foundation ask will be for \$2200.00 for operating expenses and another \$3300.00 for the town transportation project.

May – Older Americans Month

There was discussion that we should all be thinking of creative ways to celebrate seniors during May. Perhaps a weekly bulletin to our email list of inspiring thoughts. More ideas strongly encouraged. It was also suggested that a subcommittee could be helpful to meet and focus on additional programs or ways SAH can provide more services.

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

Miscellaneous Natalie received a phone call from one of the SAH attendees who volunteered to drive people to appointments.

Next Meeting, February 20, 2026 3:00 pm, Friday at Cook and Larder