

Senior Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2007
2:00 PM
Hopewell Valley Branch of Mercer County Library

Attending: Lawrence Mansier, Bill Farmer, Jean Harrington, Bob Riley, Paul Schierer, Jane Petrie, Virginia Silliphant
Excused: Anne Bolick, Severino DiCocco
Abigail Waugh: Senior Coordinator

The Meeting was brought to order at 2:04 by Chairman Mansier. Notice was made of meeting the Open Public Meetings Act requirements. The minutes of the December Meeting minutes were approved.

Chairman

Chairman welcomed Jane Petrie of Hopewell Township to the board to fill the vacancy created by Alan Wiseman's resignation.

Chairman Mansier advised that since it was the first meeting of the year, it was incumbent that the SAB elect officers for that year. Accordingly, the following were nominated, seconded and elected unanimously to office for calendar year 2007:

Chairman: Larry Mansier

Vice-Chairman: Bill Farmer

Secretary: Bob Riley

Chairman Mansier then circulated for review and critique his proposed 2007 goals for the SAB.

β To advise and support the Senior Services Coordinator in her efforts.

β To find a site for the Hopewell Valley Senior Center.

β To gather data to substantiate our choice of site.

β To continue our efforts to gain public support for construction of the Senior Center

β To explore the possibilities of a 501 (c.) (3) venture to further the goals set forth in our mission statement.

These goals, being consistent with our most recent efforts, were accepted with little discussion.

Coordinator Report

Coordinator Waugh circulated a litany of her recent and forthcoming activities. Some of these were discussed as follows:

β There was a second successful session to prepare mailing of the senior newsletter. A review of our addressing capability with the Post Office has reduced postage to \$.17 per copy.

β There have been 20 sign-ups for the painting class.

β There have been 22 sign-ups for the chair yoga classes. (It was suggest that care be taken to integrate participants in the activity programs into our mailings, notifications, etc. This was already being done.)

β "Swing Into Spring" (intergenerational dance) has been scheduled for April 28. (Volunteers well be required)

β A series of meetings and seminars for Caregivers to seniors has been scheduled for May.

Guests

Mark Ellenbogen represents a group trying to build senior housing on the old Woolsey farm property at the outskirts of Pennington Borough. Considerable time was spent in discussing the history of the embryonic stages of this project that began in 1987. In order to economically justify the project, the density was projected at 140 to 180 units that, in turn, dictated the requirement for water and sewer hook-ups. This, in turn, would have required an annexation

into Pennington Borough, an event that probably won't happen in the foreseeable future. Could senior activities have been integrated as an independent agency? Probably, but not as a stand-alone facility.

Barbara Clancey, Director of Senior Programs for Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey, spent a few minutes introducing the "Senior Sense" program of the larger activity. The program offers 3 services: (1) Conducts sessions for seniors regarding positive management of health, the aging process, medication and its interaction with alcohol and nutrition (2) Train staffs of organizations that deal with seniors on these same subjects, and (3) Offers rudimentary computer training for seniors. The availability of such program will be integrated into our list of available services.

Committee Reports

Transportation

Ginny Silliphant discussed the research she had done relating to successful senior transportation programs in Denver, Canyon City (ID), and Rochester (NY). Although there seems to be no set formula for establishing a successful program, the criteria appear to be an organization to fit community needs, caring and dedicated people and continuous tweaking and improvement.

Jane Petrie reported that ITN, a non-profit "for seniors" transportation service covering Mercer County, is not allowed to accept any municipal money to provides rides for senior residents of that municipality.

Sites

Subsequent to our meeting with Paul P. at the December meeting, Bill Farmer has submitted data showing that our "neighbor" senior centers of similar profile use less than 2,000 gallons of water per day, water and particularly sewer usage being key criteria in seeking a local site.

Non-Profit Organization

The nature of our non-profit organization for purposes of application has been solidified, awaiting our decision (and the related advice of our lawyer) on the scope of proposed activities within the operation.

Grants Committee

A brief discussion involved the fact that the county may have matching funds available for our senior activity. In New Jersey, the counties seem to be the one governmental agency with discretionary funds available.

Public Relations

A few minutes were spent commending the Senior Coordinator for her energy and effectiveness in reaching out to our several publics. She has scheduled a meeting with the Pennington Mayor to ostensibly discuss our use of the Pennington building (It

happened on a most favorable basis). That might lead to a presentation to the Pennington Borough Council (It happened) which might result in further newspaper coverage (large spread in Pennington Post).

Hopewell Township Mayor

Mayor Sandom arrived late in the meeting to contribute the Township's slant on the various items. In addition, she requested our list of 2007 goals to be considered and integrated into the overall goals. Finally, she invited all members to participate in the Joint Committee Meeting in late February. (Firmed up as Feb. 27, 7:00 HV Golf Club.)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bob Riley: Secretary

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2:00 at the County Library.