

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

February 11th 2014, 6:30 P.M. EST

Coal Miners' Kitchen • Glen Lyon, PA.

Attendees:

Palmira Gregory Miller	Linda Conner	Paul Jarecki	Steve Dymond	Cheryl Promowicz (guest)
Tom Kashatus	John Jarecki	Heidi Jarecki	Cindy Foringer	William Weaver (guest)
Bill Hourigan	Joe Maloney	Ron Davis	Debbie Prokop	Tony Strish (guest)
Francis Zaleski	Faye Maloney			

I. President, Palmira Gregory Miller called the meeting to order on the above date and time, led those present in reciting the *Pledge of Allegiance* and proceeded with the order of business.

II. Secretary, Linda Conner read the minutes from the previous meeting of January 14th 2013. Faye Maloney made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read and placed on file, seconded by Cindy Foringer, with all voting in favor.

III. Treasurer, Francis Zaleski presented the treasurers' report for February 11th 2014. Because of an interruption of the meeting by Newport Township Police to have some cars moved, there was no motion to approve the treasurers' report on file. This was verified by the notes taken by assistant secretary, John Jarecki. It will be brought to attention at the next regular meeting of March 11th 2014.

IV. Reading of the Bills & Communications

- A letter was sent to Thomas Williams, director of the *Pennsylvania Rural Development Water & Environmental Programs* in support of the grant application by *Pennsylvania Environment Council* and *Keep Northeastern Pennsylvania Beautiful* for the clean-up of illegal dumpsites and to provide recycling educational programs.
- A letter was sent to Thomas Stolle, regional coordinator of the *United States Environmental Protection Agency* in support of the grant application by *Earth Conservancy Inc.* for the Warrior Run Mine Land Reclamation project.
- A letter was received from *Pennsylvania Environmental Council* regarding membership of NTCO. Heidi Jarecki made a motion of continue our membership for 2014 at a cost of \$50.00, seconded by Bill Hourigan, with all voting in favor.
- Linda Conner presented an out-of-pocket expense of \$22.04 for office material. Tom Kashatus made a motion to reimburse the expense in full, seconded by Faye Maloney, with all voting in favor. Palmira Miller reminded that the organization now has tax-exempt status with the state and that a copy of the certificate should be presented at the time of purchase to prevent sales tax from being charged.
- An email was received from the *Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center* announcing a workshop entitled "Finding the Funding" to be held Wednesday, February 19th 2014. Palmira Miller thought this might be an opportunity for the *Newport Township Recreation Board* to learn of available grants. Heidi Jarecki, who is a member of the recreation board, stated that she was interested in attending.

V. Reports of Committees

- Membership – Tom Kashatus reported that the membership drive for 2014 continued. Cindy Foringer will sponsor Tony Strish as a new member. Tom Kashatus made a motion to accept the new member, seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor. Heidi Jarecki will sponsor Connie Tirpak Szmids as a new member. Tom Kashatus made a motion to accept the new member, seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor. A request for lifetime membership was received from the Stenell family of New Hope, PA. As the organization grants membership on an individual basis only, Tom Kashatus stated that he would contact the family on how the matter can be handled.
- Fundraising – Heidi Jarecki provided a report of sales and donations of Newport Township memorabilia for 2013.
- Newsletter (Editors, Advertisements & Distribution) – Editors Paul & Heidi Jarecki provided a brief update on the spring 2014 newsletter. There was discussion on including death notices in the newsletter for current and former township residents. The editors agreed to allow space for the notices. Joe Maloney reported that all advertisements for 2013 were paid with the exception of the full page ad placed by Harold Destaphano, who has not responded to requests for payment. In light of the situation, Heidi Jarecki made a motion to cease further business with Harold Destaphano, seconded by Faye Maloney, with all voting in favor.
- Publicity – John Jarecki reported that because of a formatting problem, the notice regarding the Holiday Lights Recycling Drive could not appear on the *WNEP Channel 16* community events bulletin board. He also reported that an article and photograph of the NTCO Citizenship Award presentation was sent to both, local newspapers. It was again reminded that a photograph was still needed of the check presentation to the *Newport Township Police Department* for the body camera purchase and the check presentation to the *Newport Township Authority* for demolition soft costs.
- Hospitality – Mary Margaret Kashatus reported via email that condolences were sent to the family of the late, Albert Kanyuck and that as per NTCO policy, a \$25.00 donation should be sent to the *Multiple Sclerosis Research Institute* in his remembrance. Faye Maloney made a motion for the donation to be sent, seconded by Tom Kashatus, with all voting in favor.

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- f) Newport Township Recreation Board – Palmira Miller reported that the *Newport Twp. Board of Commissioners* has discussed changing the ordinance to reduce members to the recreation board from five (5) to three (3). Considering there is an expense in the area of \$300/\$400 for the change, the money would be better spent if it was given to the recreation board for its endeavors. Heidi Jarecki stated that a meeting of the recreation board was scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th 2014 at the municipal building. Tom Kashatus stated that he plans on attending the commissioners' work session on Wednesday, February 19th 2014 with Cindy Foringer, whom he will recommend as a potential member to the recreation board. In a personal note, Tom Kashatus stated that he attended the recent meeting of the *Newport Township Fire Department* and was both surprised and dismayed by the language used and lack of respect shown during discussion of other entities.
- g) Recycling – Tom Kashatus reported that the collection bins for the Holiday Lights Recycling Drive have all been or would be picked up. The largest contributors were the Hanover and Back Mountain areas.
- h) Great American Clean-Up – Palmira Miller reported that NTCO would have landfill space available between April 12th and May 5th 2014, which is an increase in time over last year. It was agreed to hold the Big Junk Drop-Off from Tuesday, April 22nd to Monday, April 28th 2014 to coincide with observance of Earth Day. The Community Pride event for clean-up of the main roads in the township will be scheduled in the near future.
- i) Butterfly Garden – Debbie Prokop reported that *Folks Butterfly Farm* has been contacted regarding an educational display. The options are a table-top display at a cost of \$176.00 or a walk-in tent, display at a cost of \$350.00. After some discussion, a motion was made by Debbie Prokop to pay \$350.00 for the walk-in display option, seconded by Heidi Jarecki, with all voting in favor. The monies will come from the Summer Fun budget. Palmira would like to have the exhibit around the time of the Great American Clean-Up activities. Potential dates and times were discussed.

VI. Unfinished Old Business

- a) Palmira Miller asked that a formal decision be made as to NTCO providing assistance to the *Glen Lyon Crime Watch*, should they choose to hold an event commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the *Newport Township Police Dept.* A motion was made by Steve Dymond for NTCO assistance, seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor.
- b) Tom Kashatus reported that he put together a narrative and some statistics of the NTCO recycling initiative as entry to the 2014 Waste Watchers Award. Our submittal was specifically requested by Beth DeNardi, Recycling Manager for *Luzerne County Solid Waste Management*.
- c) There was discussion of the upcoming "Bowl over Cancer" event benefitting the *American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Wyoming Valley*. The event will be held Sunday, February 23rd 2014 at *Chacko's Family Bowling Center* in Wilkes-Barre from 1 to 3pm. Cindy Foringer has a team, while Palmira stated that her team needed one more member. Ron Davis asked to have the list of participants by the end of the week. NTCO previously voted to sponsor a bowling lane at a cost of \$50.00.
- d) There was discussion on the Hometown Hero initiative that has been previously discussed. A newspaper article on the success of the program in the Dallas area was submitted. The project honors both living and deceased veterans.
- e) There was discussion on the fundraiser to be held by the *Huber Breaker Preservation Society* in which the Patchtown Players will perform. Palmira asked that a formal decision be made as to NTCO providing assistance with the event. Steve Dymond made a motion for NTCO assistance, seconded by Heidi Jarecki, with all voting in favor.

VII. New Business

- a) Palmira Miller would like to see an event to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the *Newport Township Community Organization* and asked for ideas.
- b) Palmira Miler suggested that potential and ongoing projects of the organization be listed on the back page of the newsletter to generate interest among township residents.
- c) A work session of the *Newport Township Community Organization* is scheduled for 6:30pm, Tuesday, February 25th 2014 at the *Coal Miners' Kitchen* on East Main Street in Glen Lyon.
- d) The regular meeting of the *Newport Township Community Organization* will be held 6:30pm, Tuesday, March 11th 2014 at the *Coal Miners' Kitchen* on East Main Street in Glen Lyon.

VIII. For the Good of the Organization

- a) Maintenance of both the memorial tree at the Wanamie Recreation Park and garden at the Coal Street Playground in Glen Lyon is the responsibility of all members.
- b) The president of the organization will always ask for a complete report and cost analysis for projects involving income and expense as a measure of accountability.
- c) Members of the organization should attend public meeting throughout the township whenever possible.
- d) New membership, fundraising, etc. are the responsibility of each and every member.
- e) Whenever attending an event as an NTCO member, promote the organization with pride.
- f) As always, remember to support the businesses that advertise in the NTCO newsletter

IX. Adjournment

Francis Zaleski made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Faye Maloney, with all voting in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Submitted by: Linda Conner