

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

May 24th 2011, 6:30 P.M. EST

Guardian Elder Care Center • Sheatown PA.

Attendees:

Tom Kashatus
Palmira Miller
Bill Hourigan

Francis Zaleski
Linda Conner
Joe Maloney

Faye Maloney
Heidi Selecky Jarecki
Paul Jarecki

Chris Todd
Mary Margaret Kashatus
Lucy Wazowicz (guest)

I. President, Tom Kashatus called the meeting to order on the above date and time, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and proceeded with the order of business.

II. Secretary, Linda Conner read the minutes from the meeting of May 10th 2011. Mary Margaret Kashatus made a motion that the minutes with noted corrections be accepted as read and placed on file; seconded by Faye Maloney, with all voting in favor.

III. Treasurer, Francis Zaleski read and presented the treasurers report from May 10th 2011. Bill Hourigan made a motion that the report be accepted as read and placed on file; seconded by Heidi Jarecki, with all voting in favor.

IV. Reading of the Bills & Communication

- a) It was reminded that the Newport Township Community Organization has been selected as a finalist in the Environmental category for the 2011 Community Awards program sponsored by the Non-Profit & Community Assistance Center. The event was to be held at the Woodlands Inn & Resort on Thursday, June 9th 2011. An allowance of \$175.00 was made at the previous meeting to cover the attendance cost of five representatives. The following individuals will attend: Tom Kashatus, Palmira Gregory Miller, Bill Hourigan, Joe & Faye Maloney with Paul & Heidi Jarecki as alternates.
- b) A request for a monetary donation was received for Holy Spirit Parish for the Vacation Bible School program to be held at Saint Adalbert's Church. Francis Zaleski made a motion to duplicate the \$100.00 gift given last year; Heidi Jarecki seconded, with all voting in favor.
- c) It was reminded that Luzerne County would be holding its' annual Electronic Recycling Program on Saturday, June 11th 2011. Eligible items were to be taken to the Hanover Area High School between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Tom let it be known that he will be picking up items for the collection and asked that anyone interested contact him.
- d) It was reminded that Representative Gerald Mullery would be honoring US ARMY Staff Sergeant James Horning for replacing grave markers stolen from the veterans' graves at the cemeteries in Glen Lyon. The event was held on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th at the American Legion Post 539 in Glen Lyon.
- e) A note was read from former Alden resident, Diane Turley, who purchased a collectible miniature of the Newport Township High School from our website.

V. Reports of Committees

- a) Membership – Tom Kashatus will sponsor new member, Chris Todd. Paul Jarecki made a motion to accept the new member; seconded by Bill Hourigan, with all voting in favor. 2011 membership stands at 130 members with Junior Membership standing at 6 members.
- b) Recycling – Tom reported that he received a letter from the Luzerne County Zoning Board stating that he could no longer store metals collected for recycling at his residential property. Alternative sites were discussed. Tom stated that he looked over enclosed trailers for sale at the *Tractor Supply Center* costing \$800 and up. Joe Maloney made a motion that NTCO purchase an enclosed trailer for its' recycling program; seconded by Heidi Jarecki, with all voting in favor. Tom stated that he would look into the matter and report at the next meeting.
- c) Hospitality – It was reported that Joe Miller was discharged from the John Heinz Rehabilitation Center and was resting at home.
- d) Editorial – Tom has questioned if there are any unpaid ads from the Winter Newsletter. Editor Bill Hourigan stated that he and Joe Maloney would have a report for the next meeting.
- e) Great American Clean Up – Coordinator Palmira Miller stated that the final report is not yet complete. She briefly discussed the event and made particular mention of the *Spooky Off-Road Riders* (local chapter) whose participation this year with the illegal dumpsite clean up was a great success. She also mentioned that the club was currently cleaning up the area around the old Newport Cemetery and that she would continue to check in with Pennsylvania Environmental Council for available funding thru grants.
- f) Fundraising – Heidi Jarecki reported that the Alden Company Store has been chosen as the 4th in the series of collectible miniatures (*The Cats Meow*) of historic township sites. The store was located at the site where RK FURS now stands. She and Paul are working from a 1915 photograph. The miniature is to be two-dimensional.

VI. Unfinished Old Business ("Unfinished" items with new discussion only)

- a) Linda Conner and Heidi Jarecki made a brief presentation on the proposal for the printing of new hats, shirts and hoodies from the *Old Newport Decal & Design Shop* in Sheatown. The artwork will feature the old No. 6 Coal Breaker that was located in Glen Lyon. This will be presented to the organization and the final quantities discussed prior to formal approval.

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- b) It was reported that the Senior Citizens Center recently received a large donation of yarn, which will meet their request for the time being.
- c) With regards to the \$2,500.00 allotted to offset “soft costs” for demolition of 42-44 Coal Street in Glen Lyon, it was reported that John Grabowski has purchased the property and refused any monetary assistance for “soft costs” or otherwise. As the monies were allotted to the Newport Township Authority, they are now asking if NTCO would consider reassigning the monies for the clean up of the old theatre demolition on East Main Street in Glen Lyon. This matter is to be discussed further prior to any decision being made.
- d) The two picnic tables purchased by NTCO have been installed at Coal Street Park in Glen Lyon. Tom stated that the Newport Township Recreation Board must first chose the location of the park bench prior to its installation by NTCO. Paul and Heidi stated that they would approach the board at the next meeting.
- e) With regards to the highlighting of two advertisers per month on our home web page, it was reported that the laws governing non-profit entities might not allow this. Palmira stated that the Non-Profit & Community Assistance Center would be holding an upcoming seminar on such matters. Both she and Tom plan on attending.

VII. New Business

- a) It was decided that though the Knights of Columbus Hall in Glen Lyon will remain the time being.
- b) It was reported that 40 acres of Earth Conservancy land located off Old Newport Road have home of NTCO, the meetings would continue to be held at the Guardian Elder Care Center for the been sold for potential development.
- c) It was reported that a “Paint Ball” business has shown interest in purchasing the site of the former *LS Skate-A-Rama* and *Bowling Alley* owned by the Ellis family in Nanticoke. The same business has also shown interest in the old *Concrete City* site.
- d) Tom suggested that the organization make a donation to the Presbyterian Hospital of Philadelphia Research Program in memory of Russ Sager. Heidi Jarecki made a motion to donate \$100.00; seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor.
- e) Linda Conner made a motion to donate \$50.00 in memory of Petrona Castellani to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Luzerne County; seconded by Faye Maloney. Heidi Jarecki made a motion to amend and donate the amount of \$100.00; seconded by Joe Maloney. Linda Conner happily agreed to amend her motion for a donation of \$100.00. All voted in favor.
- f) It was suggested that NTCO look for new projects to partner with the *Spooky Off Road Riders* in our common goal of preserving the land in Newport Township. A representative or representatives of the club should be asked to attend a future NTCO meeting.
- g) It was reported that Murph Fletcher resigned from the Newport Township Recreation Board for unknown reasons. As this may jeopardize the townships’ “Summer Fun” program for kids, Tom suggested that NTCO be ready with its plans. This was the longest discussion of the evening. The two swimming events held last summer were successful and should be duplicated this summer. It was suggested that Pennsylvania Power & Light in Columbia County be contacted regarding their nature programs held along the river. An ATV safety-training program by Pennsylvania Off Highway Vehicle Association was also briefly discussed. No plans were made final.

VIII. Good of the Organization

- a) Heidi Jarecki mentioned that the Anthracite Museum in Taylor (Scranton) would be holding “Heritage Days” over the Memorial Day Weekend. For anyone interested, there will be a short presentation on Olga Trescoff by Charles Petrilla on Saturday, May 28th at 2:00pm.
- b) Editor Bill Hourigan is always looking for articles of interest for the newsletters.
- c) President Tom Kashatus has vowed to always ask for a complete report and cost analysis for projects involving income and expense.
- d) As always, remember to support the businesses that advertise in our newsletter.

IX. Adjournment

Francis Zaleski made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Faye Maloney, with all voting in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Submitted by: Linda Conner