

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

February 28th 2012, 6:30 P.M. EST

Guardian Elder Care Center • Sheatown PA.

Attendees:

Palmira Gregory Miller	Bill Hourigan	Linda Conner	Faye Maloney	Heidi Selecky Jarecki
Tom Kashatus	Francis Zaleski	Joe Maloney	Paul Jarecki	Lori Hulse

I. President, Palmira Gregory Miller 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 January 24th 2012. Tom Kashatus made a motion that the minutes with noted corrections be accepted as read and placed on file; seconded by Heidi Jarecki, with all voting in favor. It was noted that the meeting of February 14th 2012 was cancelled due to lack of a forum.

III. Treasurer Francis Zaleski presented the treasurers report for February 28th 2012. Faye Maloney made a motion that the treasurers report be accepted as read and placed on file; seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor.

IV. Reading of the Bills & Communications

- A letter was received from the *South Valley Chamber of Commerce* announcing that they would hold their directors' meeting on Wednesday, February 15th 2012 at the Mill House in Nanticoke. The meeting will begin at 8:30am. Palmira Gregory Miller was in attendance for the meeting. She let it be known that SVCC will be holding an open house on Thursday, March 22nd 2012 and that volunteers were needed for the event.
- An email was received from *DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation* announcing that they would be holding a partnerships program grant workshop on Thursday, March 8th 2012 at Luzerne County Community College. Those interested in attending must register prior to the event. Tom Kashatus mentioned that *DCNR* secretary, Richard Allen is a native of Nanticoke.
- It was announced that the monthly newsletter from the *Non-Profit & Community Assistance Center (NCAC)* was received listing upcoming workshops and webinars, as well as available grants and online resources.
- A letter was received from the *Catholic Youth Ministry of the Greater Nanticoke Area* requesting publication of their events in our newsletter. Palmira stated that events will appear in the event calendar of the NTCO website.
- A letter was read from Joe Molski of Wanamie thanking Paul & Heidi Jarecki as editors of the NTCO newsletter for the interesting and informative articles that appeared in the winter edition. Joe stated that both he and his wife, Janet "enjoyed reading your articles".
- A note was received from *Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church* announcing that they would be selling vegetable soup and haluski on Friday, March 30th 2012, 11am to 5pm. There will also be bake items for sale. Orders should be placed by March 25th.
- A note was received from Lucille (Rentko) Flora along with a donation. Lucille stated that both she and her husband, Mike look forward to reading the newsletter and thanked NTCO "for keeping the history of Newport Township alive".
- Tom Kashatus brought a compact disc featuring the music of the group DEATH GRIP, whose members are natives of Newport Township. The disc will be sold locally for \$10.00.
- A pamphlet for PROJECT KEYSTONE was made available for those interested. The project was specifically created to provide ongoing resources and disaster support in cooperation with local agencies and municipalities to residents of the State of Pennsylvania.

V. Reports of Committees

- Membership – Lori Hulse sponsored new member, Christopher Hulse. Heidi Jarecki made a motion to accept the new member; seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor. There was no report on membership renewals for 2012. The current membership for junior members stands at eight (8).
- Recycling – Tom Kashatus reported that the project of cleaning out the shop of the late Nello Roke continues and that many of the items will be donated to *AGAPE*, a non-profit organization from Bloomsburg that is assisting victims from the flood of September 2011. Tom also stated that the space belonging to the late, Ziggy Kascinski contains all the equipment from his shoe repair business intact and that the equipment is at least 70 years old. There was some discussion on the historical aspect of the former business.
- New Business – No Report
- Summer Fun Program – There was a brief discussion on some possible events that can be held this summer though nothing was confirmed.
- Hospitality/Sunshine – It was reported that a card was sent to Evelyn Roke wishing her a speedy return to good health. A card was also sent in sympathy to Mike Yalsh (and family) on the recent passing of his mother.
- Newsletter – It was reported by editors, Paul & Heidi Jarecki that the Spring 2012 newsletter will contain 24 pages. It was also reported by Joe Maloney that he is currently working on ads for the same.

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V. *Reports of Committees continued*

- g) Fundraising – Heidi Jarecki reported that sales are currently slow. She let it be known that the knit hats will be sold at the *Variety Stop* in Glen Lyon and that the tee shirts can be ordered in children's sizes for a cost of \$8.00 each. There was a brief discussion on concerns with regards to sales tax on the items being sold by NTCO. Tom would like a solid answer on whether sales tax is applicable to non-profit entities. Heidi also reported that she donated a basket of NTCO memorabilia that was sold by *The Knights of Columbus* at their fish fry of February 24th.
- h) Great American Clean Up & others – Program Coordinator, Palmira Gregory Miller reported that the event would begin with the Community Pride Day on Saturday, April 28th 2012. She also reported that she recently attended a webinar regarding the Great American Clean Up and that the end date of the event has been extended to July 1st rather than May 31st with the final report due by July 31st 2012.
- i) Eight Point Plan – No Report
- j) Nominating Committee – Elections complete
- k) Citizenship Committee – No Report
- l) Publicity – No Report
- m) Recreation – There was a brief discussion regarding the commitment of NTCO to a purchase swing set for the Alden playground.

VI. *Unfinished Old Business*

- a) It was reported that the West Kirmar Parkway was cleaned of litter by the work release program from the correction facility at Retreat. Correction Officer Chris Miller oversaw the event. This would fulfill our "*Adopt-a-Highway*" obligation for the winter. The parkway will again be cleaned on April 28th as part of the Great American Clean Up.
- b) The annual Board of Directors meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 13th at 6:30pm with the regular meeting to immediately follow.
- c) There was again a brief discussion on the purchase of "No Dumping" signs by the organization. Palmira presented an example of the signs purchased and placed by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. She also reported that a gate was installed at the water company access road that branches off to the left of the road to the Newport Cemetery. This was done in an effort to stop illegal dumping in the area.
- d) Tom Kashatus reported that the meal provided by NTCO as part of the Saint Theresa Haven program came in at a cost of \$192.03.

VII. *New Business*

- a) Tom Kashatus reported that the organ donated by Leona Spade of Nescopeck to the NTCO recycling program was taken to the *White Haven Center* (State Care Facility) where it is much enjoyed by the residents.
- b) It was reported that a "letter to the editor" written by Newport Township resident, Michael "Mickey" Hitzner was featured in the *Citizen's Voice* newspaper. While expressing his appreciation of various civic and fraternal organizations in the township, Mr. Hitzner commended Tom Kashatus, Palmira Miller and the *Newport Township Community Organization* for "the great work they do for the community".
- c) It was reminded that the *Holy Spirit Parish* would hold a fish fry in observance of the Lenten season on Friday, March 16th 2012. Tickets are \$8.00.

VIII. *For the Good of the Organization*

- a) For new and old members alike, Palmira reminded that according to the NTCO Articles of Incorporation, the purposes for which the community organization has been formed are: (a) to revitalize and beautify the township; (b) to promote charitable, civic and social pursuits; (c) to support and cooperate with all the fraternal, charitable, religious, patriotic and civic enterprises of the community of Newport Township; and (d) to protect the health and safety of its citizens.
- b) Palmira will continue the policy of always asking for a complete report and cost analysis for projects involving income and expense.
- c) Keep in mind that new member sponsorship, fundraising efforts and support of the businesses that advertise in our newsletter is the obligation of all members.
- d) Remember that whenever attending an event as a NTCO member to promote your organization with pride.

IX. *Adjournment*

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted by: Linda Conner