

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

March 12th 2013, 6:30 P.M. EST

Guardian Elder Care Center • Sheatown PA.

Attendees:

Palmira Gregory Miller	Francis Zaleski	Paul Jarecki	Alice Dymond	Faye Maloney
Tom Kashatus	Linda Conner	Heidi Jarecki	Sharon Julius	Joe Maloney
Bill Hourigan				John Jarecki

I. President, Palmira Gregory Miller called the meeting to order on the above date and time, led those present in the recital of the *Pledge of Allegiance* and proceeded with the order of business. It was reported that the meeting of February 26th 2013 was cancelled and a work session was held in its' place.

II. Secretary, Linda Conner read the minutes from the meeting of February 12th 2013. Joe Maloney made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read and placed on file, seconded by Bill Hourigan, with all voting in favor. The secretary then read the minutes from the meeting of April 10th 2012 that were not previously approved. Tom 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 presented the treasurers report for February 26th 2013. Tom Kashatus made a motion that the treasurers' report be accepted as read and placed on file, seconded by Bill Hourigan, with all voting in favor. The treasurer then presented the report for March 12th 2013. Joe Maloney made a motion that the treasurers' report be accepted as read and placed on file, seconded by Heidi Jarecki, with all voting in favor.

IV. Reading of the Bills & Communications

- a) An out-of-pocket expense in the amount of \$97.00 was presented by Tom Kashatus for payment he made to *Davis Trophy* for the engraving done to update the plaques for the Citizenship Award and Deceased Member memorial. Linda Conner made a motion to reimburse Tom in full, seconded by Faye Maloney, with all voting in favor. Tom stated that he would bring the plaques to the next meeting.
- b) The *Nanticoke Area Little League* is again looking for team sponsors as the new season will soon begin. It was reported that the league dropped the minor team that NTCO sponsored last season. Tom Kashatus made a motion for the organization to continue to sponsor the major team, the RED DEVILS, in the amount of \$350.00, seconded by Francis Zaleski, with all voting in favor. The league has asked for additional funding to assist with associated costs of registering underprivileged kids. No decision was made on additional funding at that time.
- c) With the start of the new baseball season, Tom Kashatus made a motion for the organization to continue to display its' sign at the *Hillian Little League Field* in Wanamie, in the amount of \$50.00, seconded by Joe Maloney, with all voting in favor.
- d) Tom Kashatus presented a letter with some historical photographs he received from Mike Rentko, who played football with Mitch Tullai. He also received a note from Eddy Rogowicz, who passed on some interesting information from the past.
- e) A membership application was received from the reorganized *South Valley Chamber of Commerce* for 2013 dues. Bill Hourigan made a motion for the organization to renew its' membership in the amount of \$75.00, seconded by Heidi Jarecki, with all voting in favor. The group meets at 8am on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- f) A letter was received announcing the 3rd Annual Clifton R. Lewis Good Life Foundation Celebrity Basketball Game and Dunk Contest to be held 6:30pm on April 27th 2013 at the Greater Nanticoke Area High School. Proceeds go to assist local families dealing with Muscular Dystrophy.
- g) A note was received from the *Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RAILRIDERS* thanking the organization for booking the baseball game to be held on August 17th 2013 as part of their "Community Organization of the Night" program.

V. Reports of Committees

- a) Membership – Tom Kashatus reported that there are currently 142 members. That is ten (10) above the total membership for 2012. Palmira Miller will sponsor new member, Shelly Miller, a former junior member. Tom Kashatus made a motion to accept the new member seconded by Heidi Jarecki, with all voting in favor. Tom Kashatus will sponsor new member, Charlotte Domzalski. Linda Conner made a motion to accept the new member, seconded by Heidi Jarecki, with all voting in favor. There was a brief discussion on members of the organization who reside in long term, personal care facilities. Tom would like to establish a policy that these individuals are given a courtesy membership that renews every year. Joe Maloney made a motion that such policy be adopted by NTCO, seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor.
- b) Fundraising – Heidi Jarecki reported that Susan Najaka will be writing a history of Najaka's Pond to be featured on the back of the "*Chopack's Grove*" miniature, the fifth in the series of Newport Township historic site memorabilia. Palmira asked that an accounting be available for the items that are being sold or given in the memorabilia baskets. Heidi stated that she would track the items from now on.
- c) Newsletter Editors – Paul Jarecki provided a revised outline for the spring newsletter, which will go to the printer the first week of April, 2013.

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V. *Reports of Committees continued*

- d) Newsletter Advertisements – Joe Maloney provided an update on the ads for the spring newsletter. There was again discussion on advertisements that go unpaid. It was reminded that our policy is if an ad remains unpaid after running two consecutive times, the ad will be removed from the newsletter. Tom made a motion for a complimentary ad to be given to *Speedy's Auto Center* in Nanticoke, *Ron Davis Financial Services* in Hanover Township and the *Tint Shoppe Inc.* in Wilkes-Barre for their ongoing support of our recycling program, seconded by Joe Maloney, with all voting in favor. Palmira would like *Map's Restaurant* in Nanticoke to be given a complimentary ad as an apology of erroneously reporting the wrong name as our choice of venue for the NTCO Awards Dinner. Tom Kashatus made a motion for the restaurant to receive a complimentary ad, seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor.
- e) Hospitality/Sunshine – Mary Margaret Kashatus reported via email that a card was sent to JoAnne McCarthy in sympathy of the recent passing of her father, Joe Smigleski. It was reported that Chris Todd has passed away.
- f) Newport Township Recreation Board Meeting – Paul and Heidi Jarecki reported that they attended the meeting, which was held at the *Italian Club* in Glen Lyon. Three board members and Commissioner John Visneski were present. Discussion included scheduling of the athletic fields, the possible installation of a kitchen at the Wanamie Recreation Park and a summer basketball program for ages 6 years thru high school. John Grabowski let Paul and Heidi know that he is pricing swing sets for the Alden Playground as NTCO has long agreed to purchase swings for the site. It was not known if or when another Bicycle Safety Day would be held.
- g) Great American Cleanup – Palmira reported that the Big Junk Drop-Off event will be held Monday, April 22nd thru Friday, April 26th 2013, 11am to 4pm and Saturday, April 27th, 9am to 1pm. Large household items such as furniture, mattresses, etc. will no longer be accepted as these items can be placed at the curb on the first, trash pick-up day of the month. The "Community Pride Day" will be held Saturday, May 4th 2013, 8am to 12pm with the clean up the main roads through the township. *Keep America Beautiful* provided us with two banners for the event, which Palmira brought to the meeting. She also purchased tee-shirts for the event at an approximate cost of \$5.25 each. The NTCO memorial tree at the Recreation Park in Wanamie was again discussed. Palmira reported that a decision should be made regarding the NTCO memorial tree at the recreation center in Wanamie. Can it be visually improved upon or should it be replaced with a new tree? Palmira will act as coordinator for *Pennsylvania Environmental Council* with the illegal dumpsite cleanup. Two sites in the township have been discussed.
- h) Recycling – Tom reported that Luzerne County will hold an Electronics Recycling Drop-Off event on Saturday, June 15th 2013 from 9am to 3pm at the Hanover Township High School. Registration is required. As per state law, neither televisions nor computers may be put out for regular, trash pickup. Tom has offered to pick up these items for recycling if prior arrangements are made with him. It was also reported that *JP Mascaro Inc.* has a dumpster for electronics at their site in Nanticoke. In light of widespread identify theft; computers especially should be disposed of properly and with care.
- i) Publicity – John Jarecki stated that he understands the necessity of prior approval of the press releases. However, he asked that someone be appointed as proofreader rather than incur delay by waiting until a meeting. Palmira agreed and asked that the articles be emailed to either her or Tom. It was reported that Jeremy Blank, who handles the publicity for *The Lion's Club*, may write an article regarding their golf tournament for the newsletter.
- j) Spring Dance – Sharon Julius reported that the second dance sponsored by NTCO will be held Saturday, May 11th 2013 at *The American Legion* in Glen Lyon. A budget of \$350.00 has been established. Tom Kashatus made a motion to approve the amount, seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor. To offset costs, an admission fee of \$3.00 will charged at the door. It was suggested that any teen volunteering during the Great American Cleanup event should receive free admission.
- k) High School Scholarship Award – It was decided to postpone the scholarship program until 2014 to allow for adequate research time by the committee.

VI. *Unfinished Old Business*

- a) There was again discussion on the NTCO logo. Tom brought a sample design that he has been working on with Rose Hoover and would like suggestions on the design prior to final approval.
- b) Tom reported that the *Newport Township Fire Department* will handle the Chinese auction at their Annual Memorial Weekend Bazaar and will not be partnering with the organization this year.
- c) Palmira reported that she and Tom toured the new field in Lackawanna County for the *Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RAILRIDERS*. NTCO will participate in their community program at the game on Saturday, August 17th 2013. Twenty (20) tickets have been purchased for the event in which a member of NTCO will throw out the first pitch. Cost of the ticket is \$8.00. An announcement of the event will be featured in the newsletter and on our website, as well as on flyers that will be placed throughout the township and by email. Palmira would like a sales flyer developed for the event to advertise NTCO memorabilia.

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VII. *New Business*

- a) Tom reported that the organization will participate in the *Saint Theresa Haven* program on Saturday, April 6th 2013. There are approximately 25 men that will be housed for the week at *Saint Faustina's* parish hall in Nanticoke. The meal will be prepared by NTCO and served by volunteers for the parish. Tom Kashatus made a motion for an allowance of \$150.00 to cover the associated costs, seconded by Sharon Julius, with all voting in favor. Tom has planned two meals for the event.
- b) It has been reported that the *Knights of Columbus* may sell their hall in Glen Lyon as the yearly cost to maintain the site is around \$8,000.00. It has been suggested that the *Knights of Columbus* and NTCO maintain the hall jointly. Though Tom stated that further discussion will be needed before any proposal can be made. The hall is still considered home to the organization.
- c) The *Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection* has begun another mine reclamation project on East Alden Mountain in the township. A map of the site was available for viewing.
- d) Palmira reported that *Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Church* in Glen Lyon is selling haluski and vegetable soup. Orders must be placed by March 17th 2013 with pick up at the church on March 22nd. If anyone is interested, Palmira will take orders after the meeting.
- e) Bill Hourigan has volunteered to build a train platform like he built for the *Newport Township Fire Department* that can be raffled off by the organization. The first platform was built at a cost of around \$200.00. Bill estimates that costs will now be somewhat higher. The matter will be discussed more in the future.
- f) Palmira reported that she has obtained an application for State Tax Exemption status for the organization. She plans on contacting *State Representative Gerald Mullery's* office for assistance.

VIII. *For the Good of the Organization*

- a) Maintenance of memorial tree at the Wanamie Recreation Park 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 9:15pm.

Submitted by: Linda Conner