

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

March 26th 2013, 6:30 P.M. EST

Guardian Elder Care Center • Sheatown PA.

Attendees:

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Palmira Gregory Miller | Francis Zaleski | Paul Jarecki | Mary Jo Evans | Pat Cannon |
| Tom Kashatus | Linda Conner | Heidi Jarecki | Debbie Prokop | Buddy Goss (guest) |

I. President, Palmira Gregory Miller called the meeting to order on the above date and time. In the absence of a quorum, Tom Kashatus made a motion to continue the meeting with nine members present, seconded by Francis Zaleski, with all voting in favor. The president then called for the recital of the *Pledge of Allegiance* and proceeded with the order of business. Guest attendee, Buddy Goss was introduced and spoke briefly of his potential interest in becoming a junior member of the organization.

II. Secretary, Linda Conner read the minutes from the meeting of March 12th 2013. Tom Kashatus made a motion that the minutes with the noted corrections, 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 Board of Director meeting of February 12th 2013 that were not previously approved. Heidi Jarecki made a motion that the minutes with noted corrections be accepted as read and placed on file, seconded by Tom Kashatus, with all voting in favor.

III. Treasurer, Francis Zaleski presented the treasurers report for March 26th 2013. Tom Kashatus made a motion that the treasurers' report be accepted as read and placed on file, seconded by Debbie Prokop, with all voting in favor.

IV. Reading of the Bills & Communications

- A card was received from the family of the late Marie Morucci in appreciation of the condolences sent by the organization and the monetary donation made in her memory.
- A monetary donation of \$100.00 was received from Jim & Mary Ann Murphy made in the memory of the late Geraldine Smocharski. The Murphy's wrote that they "are very proud and supportive" of the work done by the community organization.

V. Reports of Committees

- Membership** – Tom Kashatus reported that there are currently 142 members. Tom Kashatus will sponsor Jim and Mary Ann Murphy, who will receive a courtesy membership in appreciation of their monetary donation. Heidi Jarecki made a motion to accept the new members, seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor. Tom will also sponsor Ed and Barbara Haines as new members. Heidi Jarecki made a motion to accept the new members, seconded by Linda Conner, with all voting in favor.
- Fundraising** – Heidi Jarecki had on hand the template for the "*Chopack's Grove*" miniature, the fifth in the series of Newport Township historic site memorabilia. A few minor adjustments were agreed upon.
- Newsletter Editors** – Paul Jarecki stated that the spring newsletter will go to the printer the first week of April 2013. He asked that the Editorial Board review the template and report back to him no later than Wednesday, April 3rd.
- Newsletter Distribution** – Tom Kashatus stated that there will be 1,500 copies of the newsletter for distribution.
- Hospitality/Sunshine** – Mary Margaret Kashatus reported via email that a card was sent to Susanne Todd in sympathy of the recent passing of her husband, Chris Todd. A card was sent John Yagodzinski wishing him a quick recovery from illness and Easter greetings were sent to Mary Ann Jaffee. Mary Margaret stated that she plans on sending occasional greetings to our members that reside in long-term care facilities.
- Great American Cleanup** – Palmira reported that there have been changes made to the dates scheduled for the Great American Cleanup. The events are as follows: The Big Junk Drop-Off will be held from Thursday, April 25th thru Tuesday, April 30th 2013. Hours are 9am to 3pm daily with the exception of Sunday, which run from 1pm to 4pm. The "Community Pride Day" will be held Saturday, May 4th 2013, 8am to 12pm with the clean up the main roads through the township. A crew will be available from the Luzerne County Prison work release program on Tuesday, April 30th for cleanup of illegal dumpsites between West Main Avenue and the Compost Center in Wanamie, Saint Nicholas' Ukrainian Catholic cemetery in Glen Lyon and at the top the Vista Drive in the Ridgeview area in Sheatown. Palmira also reported that she met with Todd Crouch, Program Manager of *Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful*. They may be interested in talking with the organization about the success of our cleanup program. Anyone interested in cleaning up around the memorial tree that is planted at the Recreation Park in Wanamie is asked to meet at the site on Saturday, April 13th at 9am. Heidi Jarecki stated that she would consult with the owners of *Dundee Gardens* on how the tree should be pruned or otherwise improved upon. Debbie Prokop reported that plans are in the works for a "butterfly garden" to be planted in a 6'x10' plot around the entrance sign at the Glen Lyon Park. The plan will be presented at the Newport Township Commissioners' meeting on Monday, April 1st 2013.

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VI. *Unfinished Old Business*

- a) Tom Kashatus reported that the NTCO logo, with some discussed changes, is now in the hands of John and Russ Brassington at their printing shop.
- b) With regards to the NTCO participation in the community program of the *Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RAILRIDERS*, Palmira would like a sales flyer developed for the memorabilia items sold by the organization. Heidi Jarecki stated that she and Paul already have something that might work. There was discussion of the purchase of novelty items for advertisement purposes, such as pencils, magnets, etc. Palmira wanted these items as well as our newsletter and business cards available for the game on Saturday, August 17th 2013.
- c) Tom asked that all food items being made or provided for the NTCO participation in the *Saint Theresa Haven program* to shelter the homeless be ready for pick-up by 12pm on Saturday, April 6th 2013. Tom and Palmira will deliver the items to Saint Faustina's Church hall. Buddy Goss offered to speak with his teacher of the culinary arts program at *Greater Nanticoke Area High School* on the possibility of providing a sheet cake for the meal.
- d) Heidi Jarecki reported that John Grabowski of the *Newport Township Recreation Board* provided her with an estimate for the swings that the organization has offered to purchase for the Alden Playground. She will bring the information to the next meeting.

VII. *New Business*

- a) It was reported that *Newport Township* has received \$500,000.00 in gaming funds that the commissioners have earmarked for the construction of a new municipal building. Construction costs for the "state of the art" building will exceed \$800,000.00. The *Newport Township Sewer Authority* has offered to contribute \$25,000.00. There was brief discussion on the possibility of a contribution to offset costs by the *Newport Township Community Organization*. No final decision was made and the matter will be discussed further in the future.
- b) Tom Kashatus stated that he is concerned by the bad press the *Newport Township Community Ambulance Assoc.* has received of late. He reported that a meeting held by the commissioners specifically to discuss the matter was very poorly attended by township residents.

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 Linda Conner, with all voting in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted by: Linda Conner