

Erin Trostle

From: Amy <amyfromgreenwich@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2024 6:54 PM
To: Kevin Hansan; Alison Boak; Diane Briggs; Daniel Paschkes; Namasha Schelling; Erin Trostle
Subject: Restoring Neighbor to Neighbor services: A Call to Protect Our Seniors and Our Community

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Dear Town Board Members,

I respectfully ask that this letter be read at the next town board meeting. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

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Pound Ridge is not just a beautiful place—it's a home, a community bound by its traditions, landscapes, and the shared values of kindness and care. We invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in purchasing and preserving open space to maintain the bucolic charm that we all treasure. But what we often overlook is that our greatest resource—the one most deserving of conservation—is our seniors. It's time we recognize this, and act to restore one of our town's most vital programs, Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N).

N2N has quietly served as the backbone of this community's care for its senior citizens. It has delivered far more than flowers for friends, goodie bags for the holidays and Pound Ridge Cupid, celebrations of milestone birthdays, and rides to the doctor. It has delivered connection, independence, and dignity. Through thoughtful programs like Grocery Shopping Wednesdays, hot meal delivery, RUOK check-ins, and transportation assistance, N2N has ensured that the seniors who built this town are able to continue living here with the support they need.

But now, I fear for the future of N2N. The new job description for a part-time recreation assistant appears to shift the focus away from these senior-specific services, pushing vital duties aside in favor of more general clerical work. The role as currently described overlooks the very activities that make our community strong and supportive for all. If N2N's core services are diminished our seniors will be left vulnerable—many of them live alone, don't drive, and don't have internet access. These neighbors depend on N2N for basic needs, and more importantly, for the human touch that prevents isolation and ensures their well-being.

Our seniors are not just a demographic; they are our history, our veterans, our mentors. They are the reason Pound Ridge remains a place we are proud to call home. We cannot allow the systems in place to protect and care for them to quietly fade away. These men and women sacrificed for us—now it's our turn to step up.

The new recreation assistant role must be revised to preserve the essential services N2N has always provided. I ask our town leaders to protect this lifeline for our seniors and to ensure that the role remains focused on coordinating volunteer efforts and confidential assistance. N2N is more than a set of activities—it's the heart of our community's compassion.

If we allow N2N to be diminished, we risk losing not just a program, but a part of what makes Pound Ridge special. Let's act now to restore and conserve what truly matters: the people who made our town what it is today. Together, we can ensure that Pound Ridge remains a place where all generations are valued and cared for.

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