

**Mansfield Commission on Aging**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, April 14, 2003 2:30 PM –\*\* Conference Room C, Town Hall\*\***

**PRESENT:** K. Grunwald (staff), Jean Kenny (staff), Bob Goldsborough, Susanna Thomas (Chair), Tim Quinn, Bill Rosen (guest), Nora Stevens, Elizabeth Norris, Carol Phillips, and Barbara Ivry

**I. Call to Order: meeting called to order at 2:35 PM**

**II. Appointment of Recording Secretary:** The question was raised regarding the appointment of K.Grunwald as recording secretary, as he is not a member of the Commission. It was decided that he will continue in the capacity as “acting recording secretary.” S. Thomas will continue to review minutes before they are distributed.

**III. Acceptance of Minutes** of the March 10, 2003 meeting: minutes were accepted as written.

**IV. Correspondence** - Chair and Staff: none

**V. Optional Reports** on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

**A. Health Care Services**

Wellness Center and Wellness Program - J. Kenny distributed copies of her monthly report. She has been out for medical reasons, and therefore contacts are down for the month. The leader of the osteoporosis strength-training program has left, and will be replaced by another instructor.

**B. Social, Recreational and Educational**

Senior Center – Marilyn Gerling: Senior Center Assoc. - Tim Quinn  
In M. Gerling’s absence J. Kenny distributed copies of her monthly report.

**C. Housing**

Jensen’s Park: B. Goldsborough reported that they have a certified financial planner coming to deliver a presentation on long-term care. B. Ivry suggested that younger people should be educated about this as well, since they are most likely to be able to afford this.

**D. Related Town and Regional Organizations**

Senior Resources of Eastern CT –C. McMillan reported that the Windham Regional Council on Aging will be sponsoring a Health Fair on May 6 at the Nathan Hale Inn. The Senior Resources Advisory Board has reported that due to the current budgetary crisis in the State many seniors are having a hard time getting access to resources, and consequently are charging medication to credit cards and

having difficulty paying bills. They are attempting to demonstrate the impact of these cuts.

Town Community Center – S. Thomas has left a message for Curt Vincente asking him to come to one of these meetings and present information about the Community Center. T. Quinn raised some concerns about rumors that are circulating that all Wellness classes will be moved to the Community Center and seniors will have to join the Center to enroll in these programs. K. Grunwald responded that no decisions have been made about moving programs to the Community Center, and that the Department of Social Services remains committed to providing affordable wellness programs that are responsive to the needs of seniors. K. Grunwald will follow-up with Curt Vincente to pass along these concerns and invite him to attend the next meeting of the Commission.

## **VI. Old Business**

On-going study of the housing needs of the elderly:

**Guest speaker: William Rosen on**

**“Planning Assisted Living Housing in the Town of Mansfield”**

B. Rosen began by referencing a comprehensive survey that was done working with Jane Ann Bobbitt on the feasibility of locating an assisted living facility in Mansfield. Individuals have been exploring a cooperative venture between UConn and the Town to develop an assisted living facility. Acquiring suitable land has been seen as a major obstacle, which is part of what has motivated the interest in UConn as a partner. The University of VA is seen as a model for this type of partnership. The location of an appropriate piece of land is still critical to this process. B. Rosen suggests enlisting the support of several people on this effort including Phil Barry, a representative of the UConn Foundation or the Board of Trustees, local legislators, Chancellor John Peterson and his wife Carol, and the AAUP. The group has been focused on potential acquisition of land in the Northwood Apartments area if this becomes available. Jane Ann Bobbitt will be taking the leadership on this issue, along with Howard Raphaelson, as B. Rosen will be moving out of town.

## **VII. New Business**

**Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 4:13 PM**

(next meeting set for Monday, May 12, 2003 at 2:30, Senior Center)