

Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes
Monday, February 14, 2005 2:30 PM – Senior Center

PRESENT: K. Grunwald, S. Thomas, M. Thatcher, B. Griffin, B. Acebo, E. Norris, T. Rogers, K. Doeg, C. Phillips, C. McMillan, D. Mercier, J. Kenny, P. Hope
REGRETS: P. Secker, N. Stevens

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair Susanna Thomas called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. Acceptance of **Minutes:** The minutes of the January 10, 2004 meeting 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 Programs –J. Kenny distributed copies of her report. She has been busy responding to victims of the Juniper Hill fire.
 - B. Social, Recreational and Educational
Senior Center – P. Hope distributed copies of her report. She noted that attendance at the Center tends to be low in January. There have been some closures and delayed opening due to weather. There have been some closures and delayed opening due to weather. Lifeline Screening was offered to provide testing in 4 different health areas. Linda Wohllebe has returned from medical leave part-time. The food service manager has resigned; a student is currently filling the position part-time. The Senior Center is in the process of compiling an accurate account of unduplicated members who are attending on a daily basis.
Senior Center Assoc. – John Brubacher was not present; no report.
 - C. Housing
Assisted Living Project: K. Grunwald reported that the Town Council has approved funds up to \$25,000 for a market needs analysis to be done on development of an assisted living facility. The Coalition for Assisted Living is reorganizing and will be meeting in March 10. They would like to see seniors take on a lobbying function to support this initiative. They would also like to see a liaison with the Commission. B. Acebo circulated an article from the New York Times on assisted living.
Juniper Hill, Jensen’s Park, Other: no report.
 - D. Related Town and Regional Organizations
Advisory Committee On the Needs of Persons with Disabilities: no report.
Senior Resources of Eastern CT: no report. There was a

suggestion that Marilyn Gerling be approached to serve as the Mansfield representative to Senior Resources.

Town Plan of Conservation and Development: no report.

VI. New Business

A. Agency Funding Requests:

- a. Windham Region Dial-A-Ride: K. Grunwald reported that the Windham Regional Transit District has requested that municipal funds come directly to them. WRCC is the current operator/sub-contractor for the service, and the contract is going out to bid. M. Thatcher reported on information that she received from Rose Kurcinik. The agency scored 27/30 on funding criteria: this reflects the importance of the service involved. Those who rely on this are among the most vulnerable citizens. The increased request from last year does not seem excessive, but there is a concern due to the Town of Windham's failure to fully fund this program. It was recommended that the amount requested be delivered to WRCC; members felt that they need an application from WRTD. Approved unanimously.
- b. TVCCA Meals On Wheels: C. Phillips reported on this application. The amount requested of \$1456.20, is a decrease from last year. Score of 30/30. Question of whether or not they reach all of the residents who need this service, but P. Hope pointed out that some eligible residents are at Juniper Hill. Recommended to fully fund, approved unanimously.
- c. McSweeney Regional Center: C. McMillan reported on their application. She felt that all participating towns are paying a similar amount for the services provided. Score was 29/30. Based on other town contributions she felt that our fair share would be 7- \$8000. Moved and approved that the application be funded in the amount of \$7500.
- d. Community Companions and Homemakers: K. Doeg reported on this application. Score of 27/30; closely aligned with the Department's mission. Mansfield is the only town that provides funding, and the feeling is that they are not trying hard to solicit funds from other towns. Recommends that the request be fully funded in the amount of \$4500. Approved unanimously.
- e. Mansfield Senior Center Association: D. Mercier reported on this application. She feels that it is a modest amount of money to request for the proposed service. She questioned why only \$750 has been spent to date. T. Rogers explained that for the first six months the Easter Seals rehabilitation program supported the food service employee; she is no longer working in the job, and it is difficult to find individuals who meet eligibility criteria. D. Mercier is concerned that the recommendation should be based upon how much will actually be spent out of the remaining funds for this year. She sees support for the TVCCA meal program as being a top priority. She sees the Windham Hospital meal program as being a second priority, and asked

whether or not the Town could assume the cost of a shed for the Senior Center. T. Rogers raised concerns about hiring a minimum wage employee to do the type of work that is required in the kitchen. D. Mercier also questioned how the Association can increase participation in the meal program without fully funding the request. The suggestion was also made that if the Association owns the existing shed then they should request that the Town find other storage space for the maintenance equipment that is in there. D. Mercier's recommendation is that there should be full funding for the requested items 1 & 2 (TVCCA meal program & Windham Hospital meal program), with a lesser priority for #3 (purchase of a shed); score of 30/30. She also recommended that if there is a need to cut, the Town look at sharing the cost of the shed. The feeling is that having the Association hire a reliable employee will take this burden away from the Senior Service Coordinator. Some discussion re: whether or not this should be an employee of the Association or the Town. Approved that the application be fully funded with the Item 1 request be fully funded, to continue the meals program by hiring an employee, with the recommendation that this be supported by the Town with the hiring of a part-time employee. If the Town is unwilling to do that, the COA recommends fully funding the Association's request to support this position. Moved by C. Phillips; seconded by C. McMillan.

VII. Old Business

Process for up-dating **the Long Range Plan (2005-2009)** - Kevin Grunwald

- a. Review of accomplishments of previous plan: request made that members do this for the next meeting.
- b. Review each area of the plan and indicate comments/questions on the following dimensions: Existence, Adequacy, Accessibility, Efficiency, Equity, and Quality.

VIII. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM

(next meeting set for Monday, March 14 , 2005 at 2:30, Senior Center)