

Approved Minutes

Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes 9:30 AM – Senior Center Tuesday, November 9, 2009

Present: K. Grunwald (staff), C. Phillips, J. Scottron (guest), A. Holinko, M. Thatcher, C. Pellegrine, S. Gordon, W. Bigl, J. Adamcik, J. Quarto, T. Rogers, T. Quinn (Chair)
Regrets: none.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair T. Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. Acceptance of Minutes of the **October 13** meeting: Please note that C. Pellegrine conveyed her regrets that she was unable to attend the meeting. The minutes of the October 13 meeting were accepted with that correction.
- IV. **Correspondence** – Chair and Staff: K. Grunwald distributed copies of a Freedom of Information Guidelines for Boards, Commissions and Committees brochure. This will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. Wright's Way Bus Stop: W. Bigl (see attached communications) approached the Transportation Advisory Committee about the request for a bus shelter at Wright's Way. Lon Hultgren responded and indicated that the Town has a shelter that can probably be installed next year. They are also looking at improving the bus stop at MCC as a more permanent stop. The DPW will be addressing both of these issues. Will suggested that they be contacted in the Spring to follow-up on this issue.
 - B. Triad Program/Role of the Police: (W. Bigl) spoke with Tricia Lagasse at People's Bank who is interested in starting a Triad chapter in Mansfield. He explained some of the different services that can be offered through a Triad. Will has spoken with the Fire Chief and other police officers about this. He is requesting the COA to endorse this proposal and invite Trish to the next meeting. "Triad is a partnership of three organizations - law enforcement, senior citizens, and community groups. The sole purpose of Triad is to promote [senior safety](#) and to reduce the fear of crime that seniors often experience." K. Grunwald distributed a handout on the Makeup of Triad. It was agreed that W. Bigl will invite Tricia Lagasse to attend the December meeting to discuss starting a Triad.

- C. "Other": C. Pellegrine noted that there was a question asked about the "explosive situation" at the Senior Center at the recent Candidate's Night.. K. Grunwald provided some background information about this relative to the class registration policy. T. Rogers feels that the some seniors used this as an opportunity to force the issue with the Town Council. C. Phillips questions the value of being hypercritical of an organization that is attempting to do good work, and she feels that this negatively impacts the reputation of the Senior Center. J. Adamcik echoed this. T. Quinn questioned what the role of the COA might be regarding an issue such as this.

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

A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – The job description for the Senior Service Social Worker is being revised and will be posted soon. K. Grunwald and Kathy Ann Easley are providing coverage until a new person is hired.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – P. Richardson was not present. K. Grunwald distributed copies of her report.

Senior Center Assoc. –T. Rogers noted that the Association is completing their proposed bylaws revision.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Advisory Committee: no report.

Wrights Way: J. Adamcik reported that they received funding for a Resident Services' Coordinator for 5 hours per week.

Juniper Hill: no representative. T. Quinn will contact the Administrator to request a representative.

Jensen's Park: W. Bigl will locate a new representative.

Glen Ridge: J. Scottron was recognized as a representative from this community.

Other: none.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations such as:

Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Resources of Eastern CT: no reports.

VII. **Old Business**

- A. Long Range Plan for 2007- 2010: Update on Action Plans- no discussion.

B. Sub-Committee Report: New Senior Center- T. Quinn objected to language that implies that the Commission will be “building a new Senior Center”, as this is the responsibility of the Town. He reported that after a discussion with the Mayor she indicated that the Town is aware of the need for a new Senior Center. W. Bigl reported that the feedback provided to the Council by this Commission on the Mansfield 2020 plan recommends a general location for a new Center. C. Phillips added that Will, Joan and she discussed this, and understand that this is a long-range plan. Their goal is to continue to remind Council members to look at this need as parcels of land become available; they want Council members to continue to be thinking about this. A. Holinko feels that it is important that the Council is aware of the fact that this is something that the Commission is addressing and supporting. The goal is to also demonstrate how the Commission’s long-range plan intersects with Mansfield 2020. W. Bigl noted that the sub-committee has identified the following potential locations: parcel behind the Community Center, parcel behind the downtown partnership, parcel on Maple Rd. and 275, and part of the Warren property on Maple Rd., property next to the playing fields on Hanks Hill Rd., Southeast School property. J. Scottron feels that they may need to look at larger pieces of property to accommodate future needs. A. Holinko feels that it may be helpful to define this work as “vision or planning for a new Senior Center.”

C. “Other”: none.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.

Next meeting: **Monday, December 14, 2009** at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald

Communication regarding a bus shelter and bus stop:

From: [Lon R. Hultgren](#)

To: [Will Bigl](#)

Cc: [Gregory J. Padick](#) ; [Matthew W. Hart](#) ; [Mark Kiefer](#) ; [John E. Jackman](#) ; [Eric J. Ohlund](#) ; [Betty Gardner](#) ; [Dennison Nash](#) ; [Greg Frantz](#) ; [Helen Koehn](#) ; [Michael Taylor](#) ; [Ross Hall](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2009 6:18 PM

Subject: RE: Bus Shelter @ Wrights Way

[Will](#),

Incidentally enough, we inherited a bus stop enclosure from the Windham Hospital last year when they did not need it any more. We have it at the Town Garage and it is very possible we could locate this shelter on Wrights Way at some point in the future, although most likely next year (as we are trying to finish many projects before winter and can't take on any new ones this late in the year).

Your email about the terrain refers to the the bus stop located across from the MCC ... do you mean the one that is on the North side of S. Eagleville in front of the MCC? If you do, we (the DPW) will be looking at making this a more permanent stop (easier to use) in the future. We weren't sure it was going to be used enough to keep it (this stop is relatively new). If this is not the stop you are referring to, please let me know.

While I will certainly forward your correspondence to the TAC, these matters are really just routine bus stop improvements which the DPW can certainly do in time. The TAC has long supported our efforts to improve the bus stops in Mansfield, so we are not dealing with policy matters here. It's more a question of scheduling, time and (of course) money to do what needs to be done.

Lon

-----Original Message-----

From: Will Bigl [mailto:wbigl@charter.net]

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2009 12:16 PM

To: Lon R. Hultgren

Cc: Matthew W. Hart; Kevin Grunwald

Subject: Bus Shelter @ Wrights Way

• **Transportation Advisory Committee**

At the Mansfield Commission on Aging meeting October 13, 2009 the representative from Wrights Way informed the Commission that there was a need for a bus shelter at the bus stop for Wright's Way. We are told that the bus stop is located on land owned by the Town of Mansfield.

At a previous meeting where representatives from the Windham Region Transit District were in attendance, they indicated that it was the Town of Mansfield's responsibility to erect and maintain bus stops and shelters, and that they had no objection to the erecting of shelters in town.

At the Commission meeting we also discussed the bus stop located across from the Mansfield Community Center on South Eagleville Road. It was mentioned that this stop presents some problems for patrons embarking and disembarking because of the terrain where the stop is located. As this stop is also used for Wright's Way residents going to the Community Center, the commission would like you to look into these conditions. We would hope that both of these items would include an examination of accessibility for people with disabilities.

The Commission would appreciate anything you can do in respect to these matters.

Wilfred T. Bigl
Mansfield Commission on Aging