

**Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes**  
**9:30 AM – Senior Center**  
**June 13, 2011**

**PRESENT:** J. Quarto (Vice-Chair), D. Nolan, A. Holinko, J. Terry, B. Lavoie (staff), S. Gordon, T. Rogers, J. Scottron, W. Bigl, Bev Korba (guest), C. Dainton (staff), G. Stebbins (staff)

**REGRETS:** C. Pellegrine, E. Poirier

- I. **Call to Order:** Vice- Chair J. Quarto called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the **May 9, 2011** meeting were accepted as written.

IV. **Correspondence** – Chair and Staff:

V. **New Business**

A. Annual Report: Accomplishments and Goals for Next Year: The following are the goals that were adopted for the current year:

- Continue to ensure that the needs of seniors are represented in the Town’s strategic planning initiative.
- Promote the development of a new Senior Center as a future initiative for the Town Council to consider.
- Update Mansfield’s Long-Range Plan for Seniors, with a continued focus on priority issues of transportation, information dissemination, senior center space needs, and access to public meetings: information dissemination accomplished with the revision of “At Your Fingertips”, and the addition of assistive hearing technology at the Town Council Chambers.
- Ensure the implementation of the Volunteer Driver Program:  
Accomplished
- Continue to advocate for the installation of bus shelters at Wrights’ Way and at the Rt. 275/Community Center bus stops: Accomplished for Wrights’ Way.

J. Quarto reviewed these goals with the Commission. W. Bigl suggested adding “promoting senior safety” as a goal. Another suggestion was made that transportation be eliminated from the goals, as the volunteer driver program has been implemented.

Proposed Goals:

- Continue to ensure that the needs of seniors are represented in the Town’s strategic planning initiative.

- Promote the development of a new Senior Center as a future initiative for the Town Council to consider.
- Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for Seniors, with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs, including changing federal benefits' programs.
- Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Rt. 275/Community Center bus stop.

K. Grunwald will send out a draft for members' approval.

B. Mansfield Representatives to McSweeney Center: K. Grunwald suggested inviting Carol Fineout and Betty Gardner to the next COA meeting. They are Mansfield's representatives on the McSweeney Board of Directors. They will be invited to the September COA meeting.

C. Report of the nominating committee: no report.

D. "Other": J. Terry thanked B. Lavoie for fixing up the front of the Senior Center. Some concerns were raised about getting a sign on Maple Rd. for the Senior Center. It was suggested that someone approach Lon Hultgren requesting that a sign designating the Mansfield Senior Center be erected at the driveway. This was approved unanimously by the Commission. W. Bigl will draft a letter to this effect.

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

### A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – B. Lavoie reported that "At Your Fingertips" has been revised. She announced that staff will be participating in the Senior Resources Health Fair at the Eastbrook Mall this Friday.

### B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – C. Dainton announced that starting on June 23 the Senior Center will be open until 7:30 on Thursday evenings. Matt Hart will be here July 7, and Cynthia van Zelm will provide an update on the MDP on July 14. She also announced that there is a need for additional drivers for the Volunteer Driver program. J. Quarto raised a concern as to whether or not seniors in other parts of town are aware of the volunteer driver program. G. Stebbins has put flyers up at various locations, and suggestions were made for other locations. C. Dainton raised a concern that we don't want to increase demand until there are more drivers. Some concerns were raised about drivers being required to give their Social Security number so that a background check can be completed. G. Stebbins reported that transportation requests have been down this month. K. Grunwald added that the State has awarded the Town a grant to purchase a wheelchair accessible van for seniors and people with

disabilities. The plan is to recruit volunteers to drive this van; a public service license is required.

Senior Center Assoc. –T. Rogers announced that he is saying goodbye as the President of the Senior Center Association, and welcomed Marilyn Gerling as the new President. The annual banquet is this Wednesday night at the Buchanan Center. He also announced that the Association is submitting a grant request to the Rotary Club to request funds for some equipment for the Senior Center.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Advisory Committee: K. Grunwald reported that Masonicare is close to finalizing the purchase of the Warren property. Bonding money awarded to the Town of Mansfield includes funds to develop the municipal water supply.

Wrights Way (J. Adamcik); Juniper Hill (B. Savage); Jensen's Park (E. Poirier): no reports;  
Glen Ridge (J. Scottron): the open house was successful.

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. Report of the nominating committee: election of officers. J. Quarto suggested that the election should not take place until new members are in place in October. She suggests nominating officers in September. Members concurred with this plan; will check to see if C. Pellegrine has spoken to the Town Clerk about this.
- B. Long-Range Plan: Follow-Up: no discussion.
- C. Triad (W. Bigl): reported that there was a Yellow Dot sign-up on June 8. The drug take-back program is still in the works. Will be approaching local churches to implement this program.

**VIII. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission:** Bev Korba raised a question as to how the Commission will stay aware of the changes in Medicare. Also, is there a "friendly visitor" program? B. Lavoie said that most of the monitoring of seniors is done informally, rather than through a program. She reported that Senior Resources has an "Are You OK" program. Members reported that they are aware that this is often offered through churches and by neighbors. Bev announced that 40-50 people attended the Open House at Glen Ridge.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM. Next meeting: **Monday, September 12, 2011** at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald