

# Commission on Aging

## Minutes of the April 9, 2012 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Will Bigl (2012), April Holinko (2014), Bev Korba (2014), Laurie McMorrow (2014), Don Nolan (2014), Carol Pellegrine (2012), Joan Quarto (2012), Joan Terry, (2014)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Marilyn Gerling (Sr. Ctr. Assn.), Emil Poirier (Jensen's), Martina Wharton (Juniper Hill)

STAFF: Cindy Dainton (St. Ctr. Coord.), Barbara Lavoie (Sr. Social Worker), Kevin Grunwald (Dir. Of Human Services)

ABSENT: Sam Gordon (2012)

Minutes: The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

New Business - Kevin introduced Stephen LeGault who is head of Paradigm Health, a company that is interested in constructing a senior living facility in Mansfield. Mr. LeGault explained the type of facility he would hope to build and answered many questions. His proposal is to build a facility that would provide mainly apartments to be leased by those who are independent and he would include units to provide assisted living and a few skilled nursing units. The services would be all inclusive.

Wellness Center – Kevin announced that Barbara Lavoie has arranged to have Rep. Joe Courtney come to speak at the Senior Center on Thursday, May 3 at 1:00 regarding The Future of Medicare. A representative from the Medicare Advocacy office will be available as well. We are all urged to invite folks to attend.

Senior Center – Kevin circulated copies of Cindy Dainton's March report.

Senior Center Association – Marilyn mentioned several events that are on the April calendar at the Senior Center.

Community Information – Martina reported that over 60 Juniper Hill residents attended a meeting held by two members of the Mansfield Fire Company regarding emergency preparations.

Meeting with League of Women Voters – We have been asked to attend the LWV meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Council Chambers. The League is interested in hearing about the work of the Commission. Hopefully many of our members will attend and help answer questions from League members. Bring a sandwich, dessert and drinks provided.

Triad – Will said the session on identity theft held at the First Baptist Church was very successful. He also mentioned a recent case where a Mansfield resident lost thousands of dollars in a scam. This resident will speak about her experience at the Senior Center this Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Will also reported that the AARP volunteers have had a good turnout of folks asking for help with their income tax returns.

A letter pointing out to the Town Council the need for more space for the Senior Center was drafted by Marilyn, Will and Joan Quarto. The Commission members made several suggestions regarding its contents. Once revised, April will present the letter to the Council.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Terry, secretary

## Mansfield 202 Strategic Plan

### **Senior Services Action Items**

1. Encourage the Town Council to build a new Senior Center to meet the need for additional meeting space and parking.
2. Establish a Board of Senior Citizens to oversee and coordinate senior affairs, i.e. Assisted Living
3. Maintain a listing of agencies that provide home care and health services to seniors who choose to remain in their homes
4. Improve local transportation system to benefit all levels of our population.
5. Provide local tax relief for residents who are 70 years and older.
6. Encourage area businesses to provide part- or full-time employment opportunities for seniors.
7. Explore possibility of hosting Senior Summer Olympics in conjunction with UConn.

Proposed Goals for the  
Commission on Aging, 2011-2012

1. Continue to ensure that the needs of seniors are represented in the Town's strategic planning initiative.
2. Promote the development of a new Senior Center as a future initiative for the Town Council to consider.
3. 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.
4. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.