

Commission on Aging

Minutes of the October 9, 2012 Meeting

These minutes will not be official until approved at the next COA meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Will Bigl (2012), Bev Korba (2014), April Holinko (2014), Joan Terry, (2014)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Rita Braswell (Senior Center Assn.), Marilyn Gerling (Glen Ridge), Emil Poirier (Jensen's), Martina Wharton (Juniper Hill)

STAFF: Kevin Grunwald (Dir. of Human Services)

REGRETS: Sam Gordon (2014), Laurie McMorro (2014), Don Nolan (2014),

GUEST: Lida Bilokur, Betty Jane Karnes, Ida Millman

Minutes: The minutes of the September 10, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence – Kevin attended a Connecticut Public Transportation Commission hearing and presented a memo detailing concerns of several groups including ours. A memo was sent to the Transportation Advisory Committee asking that our local transportation concerns be discussed by their group. There is a meeting of that Advisory Committee on October 18 at 7:30 pm in Conference Room B to which we are all invited.

Wellness Center – Kevin reported that the Senior Service Worker position has been posted. While that position is vacant, Kathy Ann Easley will spend one half-day per week at the Senior Center. Both the Care Givers and Low Vision Support Groups are continued with Kevin's assistance.

The FoodShare program had a turnout of over 70 at their second visit to Mansfield. They will continue to come every other Thursday at 11:30.

Senior Center – Kevin distributed copies of Cindy Dainton's September report. The week of special events in honor of National Senior Center Month was a success. A number of folks came who had not been participating at the Center previously.

Assisted Living – Kevin said that a representative from Masonicare came to a recent Town Council meeting to give an update on plans for a senior living

facility. The lack of a source of water is keeping them from progressing. They plan to make an effort to offer in-home services to local seniors and may open an office in Mansfield to facilitate those services.

Senior Center Association – Rita Braswell reported that they are visiting area senior centers looking for things to suggest for improving our center and to collect ideas for future expansion. She also said the Association is considering becoming more political by attending Town Council meetings to speak regarding senior issues. The Association is hopeful that our Commission meetings can return to the Senior Center to make them more available to the public.

Community Information – Martina said that Juniper Hill has a new Resident Coordinator, Heather, who will work mainly with residents of the cottages. Their bazaar will be held on October 27th. Emile reported that Jensen's had a flu clinic. Marilyn said that frequent social activities are held at Glen Ridge making it neighborly.

Old Business - An updated annual report was prepared by Kevin who will submit it for publication in the Town's annual report.

Commission Goals – After some discussion of our current goals, we decided to amend and update them for consideration at the next meeting.

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission – Lida Bilokur asked if the Commission would support asking the Council to hire a full-time clinical social worker. Ida Millman suggested that we work with the Downtown Partnership in an effort to make the new village senior friendly. Betty Jane Karnes said she is interested in being a liaison between our Commission and the Storrs Congregational Church Outreach Committee.

Meeting Notices – Suggestions were made that we publicize our Commission meetings in the Senior Center Sparks and in Mansfield Patch.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Terry, secretary

These are revised goals to be discussed at the next meeting.

**PROPOSED Goals for the
Commission on Aging, 2012-2013**

1. 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 benefit programs.
2. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.
3. Advocate for improvements to the local transportation system.
4. Encourage the Downtown Partnership to make the new Storrs downtown senior friendly.
5. Provide information regarding tax relief available to residents.