

**MINUTES
MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING**

MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2003

Present: Phil Fichandler, Chair Pro Tem, Barbara Ivry, Carol Phillips, Beth Acebo, Nora Stevens, and Robert Gouldsbrough.

Staff: Kevin Grunwald, Jean Ann Kenny, Marilyn Gerling,

- I. **Call to Order:** Phil Fichandler called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** Nora Stevens agreed to take the minutes for this meeting.
- III. The minutes of the December 9, 2002 meeting were approved as corrected: Correction of the spelling of Carol Phillips' name and under old business, the second sentence should read: Discussion followed and Phil Fichandler moved that the Commission not make this recommendation to the Town Council but when a position on the Commission becomes available that the Commission recommend to the Nominating Committee that the President of the Senior Center Association be considered for that vacancy.
- IV. **Communications:** Director of Social Services, Kevin Grunwald, was introduced to the Commission; members then introduced themselves to him.
- V. **Optional Reports:**
 - A. **Wellness Center, Education and MCNR :** Jean Kenny presented her December report. A copy is attached. In addition to the written report, Jean mentioned that Windham Hospital staff had notified her that the current outreach program would be discontinued at the end of January 2003. The VNA East nurse and Wendy Murakami, APRN will still provide services at the Wellness Center.

On behalf of the Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, Jean expressed concern about the financial reduction of payment during the last year, by Medicaid and State funding. She also expressed concern regarding the closing of the Willimantic Social Service Office, which will interfere with patients getting on Medicaid in a timely manner.

B. Senior Center, Social, Recreational and Education: Marilyn Gerling presented her December report. A copy is attached. In addition to her written report, Marilyn announced the formation of a new Breast Cancer Support Group, which will meet on February 10, at 1:30 in the Senior Center.

Phil Fichandler reported that the Senior Center's computers had all been upgraded and that I.B.M. donated a new computer, which will be placed in the hall, and be accessible

to everyone. He also expressed the hope for increase participation in the computer classes.

C. Housing: no report

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations:

Town Plan of Conservation and Development- Carol Phillips reported that this group is continuing to identify land use issues and the potential revenue to the Town. This group will meet on January 28th and 30th; with Jan. 30th meeting an open meeting on economic issues. This meeting will be at the Senior Center.

Town Community Center: Ray Moore stated that the Community Center will probably not make the targeted July opening because of the severe weather this winter. On January 22nd, Curt Vicente will come to the Senior Center to give an update on the progress.

VI. Old Business:

Reports on Agency requests for funding from Mansfield.

1. Community Companion and Homemaking Services: Jean presented Phil Secker's report. A copy is attached. Phil was not able to attend this meeting. A copy is attached. The \$4,000.00 requested was the same as the current year and after discussion, N. Stevens moved, second by R. Moore, to grant the request. The motion passed.
2. Dial-a-Ride and Dial-a-Ride, ADA (WRCC): Jean presented Mary Thatcher's report. A copy is attached. Mary was not able to attend this meeting. A copy is attached. B. Ivry moved, second by R. Moore, that we approve this request: however, during our subsequent discussion, a need was indicated for addition information. B. Ivry and R. Moore withdrew their motion. R. Moore again moved that we honor this request, but there was no second. N. Stevens asked Kevin Grunwald for his opinion. He stated that he had found there were really no guidelines in place, a situation he hopes to correct. N. Stevens then moved, with a second by B. Ivry, to table this request until the February 10th meeting. The motion passed.
3. McSweeney Senior Center: Phil Fichandler presented his report. A copy is attached. The request was for an increase from \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00. After discussion, P. Fichandler moved, second by C. Phillips, to deny the increase and approve \$5,000.00. The motion passed.
4. Meals on Wheels: Jean presented Lib Norris's report. A copy is attached. Lib was not able to attend this meeting. A copy is attached. The request represented a decrease of \$43.00. C. Phillips moved, with a second by R. Moore that we grant this request. The motion passed.
5. VNA East: Nora Stevens presented this report. A copy is attached. VNA East requested an increase from \$9,000.00 to \$10,000. During the discussion several issues about the request were identified, including the fact that Mansfield's funding of \$9,000.00 is almost one third of the total \$25,900.00 from the ten participating towns. How is our share being determined? While we recognize and appreciate the

value of the service of the VNA, we voted on the motion of N. Stevens, second by R. Moore to deny the increase and approve the \$9,000.00. The motion passed.

6. Mansfield Senior Center Association, Inc.: Phil Fichandler presented this report. A copy is attached. The request was for \$7,500.00, a \$500.00 decrease from the current amount. R. Moore moved, second by C. Phillips to grant the request. The motion passed.

VIII New Business:

Kevin Grunwald mentioned that he and J. Kenny are looking for supplementary funds for social services and are investigating the possible availability of funds from the Older Americans Act.

IX Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Next Meeting Monday, February 10, 2003 at 2:30 PM, Mansfield Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Stevens
Secretary Pro Tem