

MINUTES
MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
Meeting held on Tuesday , February 11, 2003

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

Commission Members: Robert Gouldsbrough, Rev. Phil Secker, Susanna Thomas (Chair), Carol Phillips, Phil Fichandler, Carol McMillan, Elizabeth Norris, Barbara Ivry

I. Call to Order: Susanna Thomas called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

II. Appointment of Recording Secretary: Staff will continue to be responsible for taking minutes at Commission meetings. The Chair will appoint a Recording Secretary, who will be responsible to review minutes prior to distribution and posting. At this time S. Thomas will assume that role.

III. The minutes of the January 13, 2003 meeting were accepted as written.

IV. Correspondence: - Chair and Staff

V. Optional Reports on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

A. Wellness Center and Wellness Program - J. Kenny

Jean distributed copies of her report, along with a copy of the new brochure. Wendy Murakami, a nurse practitioner, has been providing health assessment services for a suggested fee of \$35; blood pressure is done for \$10. Staff are exploring funding possibilities for these services, including receiving money through the McSweeney Center through September of this year. The Town may apply to the Area Agency on Aging for funding, either separately or in partnership with the McSweeney Center. We will also be meeting with the President of Windham Hospital to discuss their interest and support of Wellness services in Mansfield.

A variety of programs are currently being offered, with active participation.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational- M. Gerling

Marilyn has two students who have been involved in helping out at the center. Howard Raphaelson has been providing assistance with transportation and was involved in the acquisition of a new freezer.

On March 26 the Senior Center will sponsor a program on retirement and planning for retirement. Kevin Grunwald will be doing a presentation, along with several retirees.

- On April 4 the Spring Fling will take place at the high school.
- Middle School students will be serving for the Valentine's Day lunch tomorrow.

C. Housing :

R. Gouldsbrough is looking for someone to explain Veteran's benefits to members; some questions have been raised recently about eligibility for prescription benefits. A suggestion was made to call the Veteran's Advisor at WRCC to have him come both to Jensen's and the Senior Center to do a presentation on what he offers and what the

range of veteran's benefits are. Bob will follow-up with this and get back to the group. He will coordinate any possible presentation at the Senior Center with Marilyn.
D. Related Town and Regional Organizations: no reports.

VI. Old Business:

Dial-a-ride and Dial-A-Ride ADA (WRCC) – Mary Thatcher

Susanna spoke with Rose Kurcinik to answer questions that arose at the last meeting about their funding request. One question related to the number of Mansfield residents served being identified as NA. Rose explained that ADA service is a fixed route, and the number of residents who use the service does not determine cost. Towns that have a fixed route are required to provide ADA transportation services. Their total request is for more than \$62,000 for fixed route and ADA transportation combined. There was some feeling expressed that we would like to know how many residents use ADA transportation, even if it does not figure into the cost of the service. A motion was made and approved that the funding request be approved. Susanna will draft a letter and send it to the Town Manager supporting this request.

There was a suggestion made that Rose Kurcinik should be invited to speak to the Senior Center. Susanna will contact her to make arrangements to speak here.

VII. New Business:

Carol Phillips suggested that someone could come from the telephone company to talk about how to understand your phone bill and to evaluate the services that are provided. She will follow-up to determine whether or not there is interest in this presentation.

Other Suggested Topics: Presentation by Rose Fowler on the services offered by McSweeny Center

VIII. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 PM

Next meeting set for Monday, March 10, 2003 at 2:30 PM, Senior Center

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald

Director of Social Services