

**Mansfield Commission on Aging
Minutes**

Monday, June 9, 2003, 2:30 PM – Senior Center

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), Barbara Ivry, Susanna Thomas (chair), Carol McMillan, Carol Phillips, Jean Kenny (staff), Marilyn Gerling (staff), Phil Seckar, Elizabeth Norris

REGRETS: Nora Stevens, Ray Moore, Mary Thatcher, Beth Acebo

I. Call to Order: meeting called to order at 2:31 PM by Susanna Thomas, Chair

II. Appointment of Recording Secretary: K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes

III. Acceptance of Minutes of the May 12, 2003 meeting
Reflect that Phil Seckar was in attendance; minutes accepted with that correction.

IV. Correspondence - Chair and Staff

Jean Kenny reported that she has received correspondence from the State Department of Aging that the office of alternative homecare's local offices are closing and will be consolidated in the DSS offices in Hartford. This program is administered locally by Community Companions and Homemakers (Nancy Trawick-Smith).

Jean also reported that homecare services are only covered by long-term care insurance if they are provided by a licensed nursing agency. VNA East does not provide these services because they do not provide long-term services.

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

A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program - J. Kenny: Jean distributed copies of her reports and discussed recent Wellness Center activity.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – Marilyn Gerling; Senior Center Assoc. - Tim Quinn: It was noted that John Bruhacher should be invited to the next meeting as the new President of the Senior Center Association.

Marilyn Gerling submitted copies of her monthly report and discussed highlights.

She reported that the Senior Center Association's Annual meeting will be at Zenny's Restaurant on June 16 starting at 5.

C. Housing

No discussion

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations

Senior Resources of Eastern CT – Carol McMillan reported that grant review meetings are currently underway. She also reported the WRCC will be holding their meeting at the Senior Center in July.

Town Plan of Conservation and Development – Carol Phillips reported that there would be a public hearing on the plan on June 16 at 8 PM in the Town Council Chambers. The goal is to complete the update by the end of 2003. She reports that there is nothing specific in the plan relative to the needs of seniors.

Town Community Center – Ray Moore

K. Grunwald clarified some questions about Restricted Use membership relative to taking classes at other times of the day.

VI. Old Business

Status of search for Senior Center Director: K. Grunwald reported on the status of hiring for the Senior Services Coordinator's position.

Plans for the Fall – membership and topics for study

S. Thomas reported that there are no specific topics that have been identified to work on for next year. Nora Stevens as the Chair of the Nominating Committee has identified that there is a need to replace Phil Fichlander. Other committee members will be moving on to their next term (three year terms). Elections for officers will be held at the September meeting.

VII. New Business

Barbara Ivry has been attending meetings of SSHH (Society to Support the Hard of Hearing). She has been attending meetings of the Ashford chapter, and is interested in starting a local chapter to meet on weekdays. The group provides advocacy, support and education. She will be putting an announcement about this in the September issue of Senior Sparks. She has discovered that there are funds available for assistive technology, which a local chapter may be eligible to apply for.

J. Kenny reports that there have been efforts to start groups here in the past with the assistance of UConn, but that there did not appear to be a demand for these services. She agreed to work with Barbara on this initiative, and reported that there have been some efforts made to pay attention to renovations, provide lip-reading classes in the Senior Center and to provide assistive technology for Town Council

meetings. S. Thomas reported that there is also a need for support groups for family members of people who are hearing impaired.

A. Phil Seckar reported that he would be going to Minnesota to celebrate his mother's 100th birthday!

VIII. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 3:34 PM

(the next meeting set for Monday, Sept. 8, 2003 at 2:30 at the Senior Center)