

**Mansfield Commission on Aging Agenda**  
**Monday, May 10, 2004 2:30 PM – Senior Center**

**PRESENT:** S. Thomas (Chair), C. Phillips, K. Doeg, M. Thatcher, B. Acebo, P. Hope (staff), J. Kenny (staff), C. McMillan, N. Stevens, D. Mercier, Gladene Fait (guest), K. Grunwald (staff)

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair, S. Thomas at 2:34 PM.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for this meeting.
- III. Acceptance of **Minutes** of the April 12, 2004 meeting: the minutes were accepted as written.

IV. **Correspondence** - Chair and Staff

Status of appointments to Commission – Chair: S. Thomas reported that she recently spoke with the Deputy Mayor, Greg Haddad. He indicated that the Commission could continue with members who have received provisional appointments until the Committee on Committees can finalize these.

S. Thomas reported that she received a letter of resignation from Barbara Ivry, who feels that she can no longer participate as a member of the Commission. Her resignation was accepted with regret, and a letter will be sent thanking her for her service.

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

A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – J. Kenny distributed copies of her report, including information on a presentation by the Alzheimer's Group. Copies of a journal article on a new medication for treating Alzheimer's are available at the Wellness Center.

Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation – J. Kenny distributed a newsletter from MCNR.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – P. Hope distributed copies of her monthly report. Three intergenerational dinners were held, the Volunteer Recognition Dinner took place, with additional recognition of long-time volunteers to follow. The Spring Bazaar was held as a fund-raiser for the Association. Several members attended a presentation in Norwich on changes to Medicare, including changes in prescription benefits. There will be a presentation on this topic at the Senior Center on May 20 at 12:45. The Center has been sponsoring an 8-week Independent Living program through the CT Services for the Blind for people who are legally blind; 11 people are

attending. P. Hope is also planning on offering a support group for caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients. Reminder: Senior Expo is tomorrow at Jorgensen.

Senior Center Assoc. – John Brubacher was not present.

#### C. Housing

Assisted Living Project – neither S. Thomas or K. Grunwald was able to attend the meeting of the Coalition on Assisted Living. K. Grunwald reported on information that he discovered on Senior Living Residences, a group that manages affordable assisted living facilities in New England. More information is available on this organization at [www.seniorlivingresidences.com](http://www.seniorlivingresidences.com).

Juniper Hill, Jensen's Park, Other: no report.

#### D. Related Town and Regional Organizations

Mansfield Advisory Committee for the Needs of Persons with Disabilities – M. Thatcher reported that the postmaster has agreed to work with the town to put a drive-up mailbox at the Community Center. K. Grunwald reported that there will be a presentation on Community Inclusion on May 25 at the A.J. Pappanikou Center at UConn-Farmington. Please contact him if you are interested in attending.

Senior Resources of Eastern CT: no report.

Town Plan of Conservation and Development – C. Phillips contacted Greg Paddick about the status of the plan. There will be a public hearing to present the new 10-year plan in the Fall of this year.

Town Community Center: no report.

### **VI. Old Business**

Program on Medicare and Drug Discount Cards - P. Hope and others attended a presentation at the Rose City Senior Center in Norwich. Information on this topic will be made available at the Senior Center.

Status of Town Budget/ consideration of Requests for Funds for Agencies: K. Grunwald reported that the Town Meeting to vote on the budget will be held tomorrow, May 11.

Senior Nutrition Programs - Kevin Grunwald: no report.

Request for a Drive-by Mail Box: S. Thomas spoke to Mayor Paterson, and reported that the issue has been referred to the Engineering Department to explore placement of this mailbox at the Community Center.

### **VII. New Business**

Process for revision of **Long Range Plan (2004 - 2014)**\_

Gladene Fait, Past Commission Chair, attended and spoke about the process used for the writing of the Plan 1994-2004. She reported that the previous Commission started by reviewing accomplishments relative to the previous plan. Each member took one area of the plan and undertook an in-depth study to identify needs and resources. The group included representatives from Wright's Way, Juniper Hill, Jensen's and the Senior Center, and individuals were asked to informally survey the needs of their friends and neighbors. Individuals then developed objectives, distinguishing between items that could be immediately accomplished, vs. those that required more study and research. The entire process took approximately six months. There was some discussion in the meeting re: the implications of HIPAA relative to identifying seniors with needs. There was also some discussion about developing and disseminating a survey to seniors to be able to reflect this in the long-range plan. Relative to housing issues, B. Acebo presented information on eligibility guidelines for housing at Juniper Hill. Her feeling is that there is not enough senior housing available in Mansfield for middle-income seniors. S. Thomas recommended that committees need to start gathering data in each of these areas to develop the plan. K. Grunwald distributed an Action Planning Tool, that he suggested could be used by the groups. D. Mercier pointed out that the areas of Housing and Healthcare are significant, and would require several people with content knowledge in those areas to work on them. K. Grunwald suggested that the Commission needs to design the purpose and goals of this plan to be able to determine what the scope of this project is and how best to proceed. N. Stevens suggested scheduling a meeting in August to work on the needs assessment/town-wide survey (possibly use the Fall issue of Sparks), and to use the June meeting to plan how the work will be done on this plan for the rest of the year. She suggested getting information from staff and collecting more data to get a better handle on what the needs are of Mansfield residents. Another suggestion was to involve local churches in collecting information about the needs of seniors and resources that they may provide. S. Thomas asked all members to review the plan, and identify areas of interest. K. Grunwald volunteered to facilitate a work group at the June meeting to develop an action plan and steps required to complete the plan by the end of the year.

**VI. Adjournment:** meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

(next meeting set for Monday, June 14, 2004 at 2:30, Senior Center)

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald  
Director of Social Services