

# Commission on Aging

## Minutes of the September 10, 2012 Meeting

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sam Gordon (2014), April Holinko (2014), Laurie McMorrow (2014), Don Nolan (2014), Joan Terry, (2014)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Marilyn Gerling (Glen Ridge), Emil Poirier (Jensen's)

STAFF: Barbara Winslow (Sr. Social Worker), Kevin Grunwald (Dir. of Human Services)

REGRETS: Will Bigl (2012), Bev Korba (2014), Martina Wharton (Juniper Hill)

GUEST: Lyda Bilokur

Minutes: The minutes of the June 11, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence – April read the letter that she wrote to the Transportation Committee regarding the need for a bus stop at the Community Center.

Wellness Center – Barbara Winslow reported that she met with residents of Juniper Hill and Glen Ridge to give advice on how to prepare for emergencies. Attendance at both events was excellent. She plans to have a handout available at the Senior Center suggesting preparations that are needed to survive an emergency. Lastly, she told us she has resigned her position with the town and will be leaving in another week to accept a full-time position in West Hartford with Hebrew Health Care.

The Food Share program will begin here in Mansfield soon. A practice session is planned for September 20<sup>th</sup>. The truck will park in the Wrights Way lot and UConn Community Outreach will provide volunteers to work. The truck will be in Mansfield every other Thursday. Although the program is intended for lower income residents no one is excluded from receiving food.

Senior Center – Today marks the first day of Senior Center Week and Cindy was unable to attend our meeting as she was very busy with the special

events at the Center. Kevin urged us to attend as many events at the Center as possible to understand all that is offered to our residents.

Assisted Living – Kevin said Masonicare representatives will update the Town Council on their project at the second meeting in September.

Community Information – Juniper Hill has had a lot of turnover this summer and Laurie mentioned that most new residents are over 90. Emile reported that Jensen's new pool was very popular this summer and they plan a giant tag sale this coming Saturday. Marilyn said Glen Ridge stays active and is enjoying its new patio.

New Business - Kevin distributed copies of last year's annual town report and asked for suggestions for a current report. He will type up the suggestions and distribute it to Commission members via email as the report is needed very soon in order to be included in the 2011-2012 report.

Old Business – The Strategic Plan was discussed briefly and it was agreed that we would continue to keep many of the action items as goals for our Commission.

Kevin reported that he had received a reply from Lon Hultgren who is the chair of the town's Transportation Committee regarding our memo asking for a meeting to discuss transportation issues along with several other town committees who consider the issue a priority. Lon hopes to schedule a meeting of the committee in October and we will be invited to attend.

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission – Lyda Bilokur questioned the wording of our goals. She felt they are lofty but largely beyond reach. Several Commission members replied.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Terry, secretary

## **Proposed Goals for the Commission on Aging, 2011-2012**

1. Continue to ensure that the needs of seniors are represented in the Town's strategic planning initiative.
2. Promote the development of a new Senior Center as a future initiative for the Town Council to consider.
3. 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 benefits programs.
4. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.

### Mansfield 2020 Strategic Plan

#### **Senior Services Action Items**

1. Encourage the Town Council to build a new Senior Center to meet the need for additional meeting space and parking.
2. Establish a Board of Senior Citizens to oversee and coordinate senior affairs, i.e. Assisted Living
3. Maintain a listing of agencies that provide home care and health services to seniors who choose to remain in their homes
4. Improve local transportation system to benefit all levels of our population.
5. Provide local tax relief for residents who are 70 years and older.
6. Encourage area businesses to provide part- or full-time employment opportunities for seniors.
7. Explore possibility of hosting Senior Summer Olympics in conjunction with UConn.

