

MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES February 13, 2023

Meeting held via Zoom and in person hybrid format. Town of
Mansfield

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 9:39 AM by John
Riesen, Chair

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

John Riesen called for a motion to accept the January 9, 2023
minutes. Martina made one correction. The motion was accepted
by Laura Austin and seconded Sylvie DelaMotte and carried.

PRESENT: John Riesen (2024), Martina Wharton (2023), Joanne
Sousa (2024), Sylvie DelaMotte (2023), Laura Austin (2024), Devon
Hock (2023), Will Bigl (2024), Nancy Trawick-Smith (2023),

ABSENT: David Stevens (2023),

STAFF LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT: **ABSENT:** Mary Flood,
Senior Center Representative

CORRESPONDENCE: Sarah Taylor emailed letter including
Senior Center Update. Discussed below.

OPTIONAL REPORTS:

Senior Center: Mary Flood Reports :

- Lunches have been a huge success.
- Aidan has been shadowing Dave, and will be a great addition to team
- In the midst of ARP tax preparation.
- UCONN students came back after Christmas break. One student has done Meals on Wheels deliveries, one is running craft programs, one is running ping pong games and seated volleyball and self care.
- Valentines Luncheon tomorrow. 60 people will be served.
- March is scheduled for paint night

- Sheryl Faye comes to do historical women's programs.
- St. Patrick's day preparations have also started.
- Check out the monthly newsletter to find out all the updates.
- Family Feud has also been a fun activity, and planning to do Wheel of Fortune.

WRTD REPRESENTATIVE: Will Bigl reports no updates at this time.

HOUSING REPRESENTATIVES UPDATES:

Rolling Hills: (Jensen's Park): Will reports they are bringing in a lot of new units, however it has been difficult selling them. Will reports there are meters now for the water. Sylvie reports concern over rent increases.

Glen Ridge: Vacant.

Juniper Hill Village: Rep from Access ADT has been at Juniper Hill regarding eligibility for an energy rebate.

Wrights Way: Vacant.

OLD BUSINESS:

Martina: Letter has been sent out to Cycling without Age to Bill Thorne.

John: Updating At Your Finger Tips: All updates have been made, and Devon will go over the edits and formatting to finish the draft. Martina thanks Nancy for the homecare revision on page 17. John reports waiting to hear Sarah's report before discussing Senior Center information further. Sarah is out sick today.

John: Touring Senior Centers: Discussed which Senior Centers to visit next. John reports wanting to look at senior centers that operate in combination with other offices/facility. Discussed looking at one more senior center and also discussed inviting the Town Manager to talk to COA about what he is thinking regarding a new Senior Center

to find out where the COA has input. Discussed waiting to hear from Sarah's presentation in March and from the Town Manager before scheduling additional Senior Center visits perhaps in May. Discussed developing questions for the Town Manager to bring to the March meeting.

Sylvie asks if there is a timeline from the Town Council regarding a new Senior Center.

Sylvie reports that she continues to recommend that the Council be invited to a guided tour by Sarah so that she can detail what is wrong and why the COA is asking for adjustments. Will reports that in a previous meeting the Town Council has refused to tour due to inability to schedule members. Will reports there is a priority of buildings that need to be fixed but he is unaware of what priority the senior center is.

Sylvie and Joanne planned to get together to formulate a letter to the Town Council to see what their timeline is.

New Business:

- Availability of Senior Housing in Mansfield: 392 units will be built with 10% being affordable housing. Discussed profits and concern for affordable housing availability. Discussed concern for seniors competing for affordable housing.

A motion was made by John to adjourn the meeting. Martina seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2023.

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Devon Hock.