

## **MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES**

**April 11, 2022 held via Zoom in virtual format**

### **Town of Mansfield**

In accordance with PA 21-2 §149 and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC to slow community spread of COVID-19, this meeting will be held virtually. A video recording of the meeting will be available on YouTube at "MANSFIELD CONNECTICUT STREAMING CHANNEL" (<https://mansfieldct.gov/video>) within seven (7) days after the meeting. Public Comment will be accepted by email at [human.services@mansfieldct.org](mailto:human.services@mansfieldct.org) or by USPS mail at 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268 and must be received prior to the meeting (public comment received after the meeting will be shared at the next meeting). Please email [human.services@mansfieldct.org](mailto:human.services@mansfieldct.org) or call 860.429.3315 by 08:30 AM on the day of the meeting to receive instructions for how to view, listen, or comment live.

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OawzAkkQITU>

Meeting called to order at 9:39 AM by John Riesen

John Riesen makes a motion to accept the March minutes. The motion carries to accept the minutes

**PRESENT:** John Riesen (2024), Martina Wharton (2023), Devon Hock (2023), David Stevens (2023), Will Bigl (2024), Sylvie DelaMotte (2023), Laura Austin (2025), Nancy Trawick-Smith (2023)

**ABSENT:** Joanne Sousa (2024)

**STAFF LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sarah Taylor: Senior Center Supervisor, Patricia Schneider, Director of Human Services

**Additional Community Members Present:** N/A

**CORRESPONDENCE:** N/A

### **PATRICIA SCHNEIDER'S REPORT:**

- New Wall has been installed at the Senior Center

- Unfortunately, some items were missing in the van when it came, so awaiting replacement of those parts which should arrive today.
- Budget was presented last week, Sharon will go from 20 to 30hrs to further assist with the nutrition programs. Looking to increase congregate meals and also offering meals to go.
- ARPA funds also to increase our driver routes.
- Budget goals to increase nutrition programs, sustain our regular programs, and use ARPRA funds for transportation.
- One person on leave right now and hired Leslie in a new position.

### **SARAH TAYLOR'S REPORT:**

- April is volunteer appreciation Month. Event will be held tomorrow evening.
- Started offering Fresh Friday lunches again in person and as drive throughs. 2/3 chose drive through and 1/3 in person. Next Friday will have an entertainer come in. May consider continuing doing drive through meals.
- More people have started to say that the center feels more "back to normal" this month. Encourage residents to let the senior center know what they are looking for.
- Goal for May is to re-launch the café. Opening for coffee and baked goods to start and train volunteers.
- Mother's Day brunch planned in May and some safety giveaways.
- Yamil is on maternity leave and Mary is covering transportation and trips. Sarah will be helping with the Outreach piece.
- Starting in May shopping trips will occur every week.

### **WRTD REPORT:**

- Will reports he tried to make some adjustments to dial a ride program. Reports having trouble getting anywhere and having his voice heard and reports wanting to resign. He tried to get WRTD involved in advertising but also has frustrations with that. They are currently tied up in being in charge of the UCONN busses and reports he feels like he is not making headway. Will makes a suggestion to send letter to town council, to cut their funding for dial a ride and busses and give us the funding to provide services in house. Will reports they do a good job with ADA, but that their current focus will be on UConn Transportation now.
- Sarah reports increasing services at the senior center with two vans and reports that they are not turning a lot of rides away with huge thanks to volunteers.
- Will reports planning to make an appointment to talk to the Town Manager
- Nancy asked regarding other options for transportation Title 19 medical transportation, Uber, Lyft etc.

## **HOUSING REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

**Rolling Hills (Jensen's Park):** Will reports that the clubhouse is finally open, however reports dissatisfaction with the new tables. They bought 5 brand new dart boards. Reports concern regarding remodeling that it does not really pertain to seniors.

### **Glen Ridge:**

**Juniper Hill Village:** Mary reports they are putting in one outlet in per cottage. Process of hiring someone else to fill a vacant position. Foot care clinic and hearing clinic happening now. Also, programs with Mansfield library. Yoga classes on Wednesday afternoon. One family friend is allowed to come into the dining room.

**Wrights Way:** Position vacant. Still waiting for representative

### **Old Business:**

- Discussed again creating a report to the town council and needing a new strategy to address this report.
- David and Martina still to send an email to the Mayor.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION:**

N/A

### **New Business:**

N/A

### **ADDITIONAL REPORT:**

- Will joined new committee on housing to represent senior needs in the town.
- Discussion regarding Senior Center possibly moving locations in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM. The next regular meeting is May 9th, 2022.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Devon Hock.