

**MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON JULY 16, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Laurie McMorrow (2020), Bev Korba (2021), Martina Wharton (2020), Dorothea Mesier (2020), Joanne Sousa (2021), Nancy Trawick-Smith (2020), Don Nolan (2020), John Riesen (2020)

**ABSENT:** Judy Bigl, Will Bigl

**GUESTS:** Allison Dvorak, Senior Resources Agency on Aging, Norwich, Ct.

**OBSERVERS:** Joan Marshall, Outreach Social Worker and Lida S. Bilokur

**STAFF LIAISON MEMBERS:** Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services- Sarah Taylor, Senior Center Supervisor- Marie Hakmiller, MSCA

**COMMUNITY LIAISON MEMBERS:** Fran Chesko, Glen Ridge Cooperative- Rosemary Beecher, Juniper Hill Village

June 10, 2019 minutes were accepted as written.

Sarah Taylor and Laurie McMorrow are updating COA annual report that will be included in Senior Center report and sent to Mansfield Town Council.

Ms. Dvorak was introduced to members. She stated her purpose in attending was to listen to our discussions regarding future goals for the committee and offer suggestions from her experience with Senior Resources as well as her work with several other areas of interest.

Laurie spoke with the Mansfield Town Clerk regarding a regrouping of the COA with a goal to change the charge from the original in 1974 and the revised in 1979 to a new 2019 model that more adequately reflects the mission statement of the present Commission. Laurie clarified her role as vice-chair which allows her to lead meetings until a new chair person is elected.

A sub-committee was established to work on the new charge during the summer and report their revisions at the September 2019 meeting. The members are: John Riesen, Martina Wharton, and Dorothea Mercier. When reviewed and accepted by COA members it will be sent to Mansfield Town Council.

The committee members echoed their firm belief in the importance of community liaisons and other ways to advocate for seniors E.G.: letters, e-mails, phone calls to council members and attendance at council meetings.

John Riesen stated COA should provide the Mansfield Town Council with an annual report reflecting goals met throughout the year and anticipated goals for the future.

The committee discussed the need to develop a survey that will effectively reflect the concerns of all seniors in the community. Manchester Senior Center will be contacted regarding their survey as a possible model.

The following initiatives will be discussed at the September 2019 meeting:

- Sub-committee charge report.
- Election of new chair.
- Discuss “next step action plan”.
- Review orientation material for new members.
- Plan a “meet and greet” event to familiarize the community with COA’s role in community.

John Adamcik has resigned as community liaison for Wright’s Way.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am

Next meeting will be held on September 9, 2019 @ the Senior Center.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bev Korba, Secretary