



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 24, 2010
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUDREY P. BECK MUNICIPAL BUILDING
7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

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OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

FUTURE AGENDAS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
May 11, 2010

DRAFT

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Mansfield Middle School.

I. ROLL CALL

Present, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

II. TO SET THE MILL RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Tax Rate for the Town of Mansfield for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 be set at 25.71mills, and the Collector of Revenue be authorized and directed to prepare and mail to each taxpayer tax bills in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and that such taxes shall be due and payable July 1, 2010 and January 1, 2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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BREAK

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May 10, 2010

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Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran (7:55 p.m.), Paulhus, Ryan Schaefer

Excused: Keane, Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2010 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2010 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, commented on Spring Weekend, Section 303 of the Town Charter and remarks made by a Councilor regarding Connecticut's taxing status. (Comments attached)

Stuart Sidney, Lynwood Road, spoke in support of reallocating State funds for the purpose of modifying a second family changing room at the Community Center to make it wheelchair accessible. Mr. Sidney also submitted a second letter regarding modifications to the changing room and a sidewalk from Glen Ridge to Maple Road. (Statements attached)

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, expressed his concern with the presentation of a proclamation recognizing the Emergency Service and Public Safety personnel's efforts at Spring Weekend as it was not a successful weekend and a student was killed.

Chris Kueffner, Ravine Road, asked the Council to review the philosophy of the Community Quality of Life Committee. Mr. Kueffner believes the Town should promote education and not enforcement of regulations to address rental problems.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to move Item 4, Proclamation in Recognition of Emergency Services and Public Safety Personnel, as the next Item of business. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

The Town Manager reported that the revised state FY11 budget showed no changes for Mansfield and although the continuation of the conveyance tax was not passed during the session it will be during the special session in June.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Schaefer reported he had provided information to Ms. Wassmundt detailing *Connecticut's low tax rate status*.

Mr. Paulhus commented that education of students regarding how to be good neighbors has been an ongoing endeavor of the Town and the University.

Ms. Moran reported that she attended a meeting of the Willimantic River Alliance and was very impressed with their efforts to make the river accessible to all.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. An Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property
M. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective May 10, 2010, to adopt the proposed Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property as presented at the April 26, 2010 public hearing. The ordinance shall be effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Community/Campus Relations

The Town/University Committee will be meeting on Tuesday May 11th in the Bishop Center. The USDA will hold a public information session on the animal health research center proposed for the Depot Campus on May 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Bishop Center.

The Town Manager attended the fire department's after action review of Spring Weekend. Spring Weekend will also be discussed at the Town/University Committee meeting. By consensus the Council agreed to add Spring Weekend as an agenda item once the various reports have been completed. Issues to be discussed include community representation on President Hogan's task force, the possibility of doing more to hold private property owners responsible for what happens on their properties and possible additional actions the Town can take in response to Spring Weekend.

3. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Finance Committee discussed bonding options for the Four Corners project which will be presented under Committee reports.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Proclamation in Recognition of Emergency Services and Public Safety

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective May 10, 2010, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Recognition of Emergency Services and Public Safety Personnel. (Proclamation attached)

Motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Gregory Haddad welcomed Fire Chief Dave Dagon, Deputy Chief/Director of Emergency Management John Jackman, Resident State Trooper Supervisor James Kodzis and Deputy Chief William "Chip" Jordan and presented the proclamation to them in recognition of the efforts of all the volunteers and paid staff. Deputy Mayor Haddad commented that despite the hard work of the all involved, tragedies do happen, but that does not take away from the efforts and work staff and volunteers put in to mitigate the risk.

5. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Amendment

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following:

Whereas, the Town of Mansfield has received funds under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for housing rehabilitation loan programs, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development, pursuant to Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended; and

Whereas, the Town of Mansfield has expended those funds pursuant to Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the Code of Federal Regulations, and the Assistance Agreement, and,

Whereas, those funds received by the Town of Mansfield have generated Program Income.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL:

- 1) That it is cognizant of the conditions for the use of Program Income as prescribed by Title 24, Part 570, Section 489(e) and (f) of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- 2) That it realizes Program Income is governed by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
- 3) That it may use Program Income only for the following activities:
 - a) The activity that generated the program income if the activity continues to meet the requirements of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
 - b) Any additional activity that meets the requirements of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act if the Town receives DECD's written approval to fund it with Program Income.

- 4) That it may use Program Income to fund Administrative and Program soft costs within the following limits:

Administrative Costs	16%
Total Administrative and Program Soft Costs (Housing Rehabilitation Activities <u>Only</u>)	25%
Total Administrative and Program Soft Costs (All Activities <u>Except</u> for Housing Rehabilitation)	21%

- 5) That it is hereby amending the Program Income Plan(s) that was adopted for the original activity that generated the Program Income to permit the funding of additional activities from that Program Income.

Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Lindsey who voted no.

6. Appointment of Auditor to Conduct Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2009/10
Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved, effective May 10, 2010, to appoint Blum Shapiro & Company, PC, to conduct the Town's annual financial audit for Fiscal Year 2009/10.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Resolution to authorize Lease Purchasing Financing

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved the following resolution:

Resolved:

1) That the Town Manager, Director of Finance and Treasurer or any two of them are authorized to enter into a lease purchasing agreement not to exceed \$325,000, and to determine the amount, interest rates, maturities and prepayment provisions, forms and other details of the agreement.

2) Principal and interest payments of the lease purchase agreements are subject to annual appropriation.

3) It is the intention of the Town of Mansfield that the lease purchase agreement will qualify as tax exempt debt, as such the Town Manager, Director of Finance and Treasure or any tow of them are authorized to make such representations and covenants they deem necessary or advisable in order to *maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation on interest on the lease purchase agreement.*

4) The Town reserves the right to reimburse itself from the proceeds of the lease purchase financing for any equipment pre-purchased fro the approved equipment list.

Mr. Ryan commented that the Council has been moving away from leasing items but the resolution in question is for purchases made this year.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Corporate Resolution – Investment Pool

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Resolved, to designate Cheryl Trahan, Director of Finance, as the authorized individual to act on the Town of Mansfield's behalf, with full powers to bind the Town with respect to buying, selling, and exchanging shares of mutual funds held in the Town's accounts(s) and to execute and deliver any documents that may be required to open and to maintain accounts on behalf of the registered owner.

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9. Financial Statements Dated March 31, 2010

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved, effective May 10, 2010, to accept the Financial Statements Dated March 31, 2010.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. PZC Referrals: Draft Zoning Revisions Regarding Definitions of Family and Boarding House/Political Signs

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to communicate to the Planning and Zoning Commission that the Town Council supports the April 8, 2010 draft revisions to Mansfield's Zoning Regulations regarding the definition of family and boarding house.

Council members discussed whether or not this change would have the unintended consequence of increasing the demand for additional student

housing, the fact that current rentals would be grandfathered at the current definition, and the expansion of the definition to include a wider variety of families. Information presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission at the public hearing on the proposed change will be distributed to Council members. Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to postpone action on the motion until the next regular meeting.

Motion to postpone passed with all in favor except Ms. Moran who vote nay.

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Political signs would be defined as election or referenda related material which advocate for or urges the defeat of a candidate or issue.
Development of a consistent plan for enforcement of the regulations regarding the removal of improperly placed signs on town property.
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The motion as amended passed unanimously.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Moran questioned the minutes of the Conservation Commission which detail communications between the Committee and the Department of Environmental Protection noting that recently the Committee on Committee recommended sustaining the Council policy regarding board and committee communications with outside agencies. Town Manager Matt Hart commented that the Town Clerk just recently sent an advisory to all boards and commissions restating the Council approved communication policy.

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Finance Chair Bill Ryan reported that Gene Nesbitt, Chair of the Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee, requested the Finance Committee recommend the acceleration of the \$330,000 bonding for an engineering study by bringing it to a Town Meeting in June. To do so, the bonding issue will need to be considered by the Council at the May 24th meeting and a public hearing scheduled for the June 7th meeting. The item will be added to the next agenda. Mr. Ryan stated a similar process regarding \$263,000 of bonding for miscellaneous equipment and improvements will be recommended in the new fiscal year.

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X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Lindsey requested a copy of the Chronicle article on the budget be included in the next packet.

11. D. Edens re: The Half-Mile Radius Rule
12. A. Kolega re: Walkway from Maple Road to Sycamore Drive
13. C. Stites re: Political Signs
- 14.G. Padick re: 6/7/10 Public Hearing
- 15.G. Padick re: Proposed Inland Wetlands Regulation Revisions
16. Notice and Warning of Annual Town Meeting
17. Annual Town Meeting Mailer
18. UConn Student Enrolled/Living at Storrs Campus
19. State of CT Office of Policy and Management re: Equalized Net Grand List
20. Willimantic River Review, Spring 2010
21. CCM re: 2010-2011 Budget Increases
22. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04/23/10
23. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04/26/10
24. Chronicle "Officials say Spring Weekend attendees..." – 04/27/10
25. Chronicle "Proposed parking rules cause anger in Mansfield" – 04/27/10
26. Chronicle "Update on Storrs Center is tonight" – 04/28/10
27. Chronicle "Backers upbeat about downtown plan's progress" – 04/29/10
28. Chronicle "Farm stand plan raises eyebrows" – 04/29/10
29. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04/30/10
30. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 05/03/10
31. Chronicle "PZC plan to limit unrelated housemates..." – 05/04/10
32. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 05/06/10

XI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, disagreed with Councilor Schaefer's explanation regarding the sharing of information on Connecticut's tax status.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Items scheduled for the next meeting include the bonding authorization for the Four Corners engineering study and the PZC referral regarding the definition of family.

A discussion on Spring Weekend will be added to the agenda once reports are completed.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to recess the meeting and move into executive session to continue the review and discussion of commercial and financial information provided in confidence by Storrs center Alliance, in accordance with CGS§ 1-200(6)(E), 1-210(b)(5)(B).

Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Review and discussion of commercial and financial information provided in confidence by Storrs center Alliance, in accordance with CGS§ 1-200(6) (E), 1-210(b) (5) (B).

Present: Haddad, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Ryan, Paulhus, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

May 10, 2010

To: Mansfield Town Council
From: Betty Wassmundt

A few things:

About Spring Weekend, I'm hoping that enough of the new council members will be sufficiently outraged by what they saw so as to work to end it. Do whatever it takes to do so. The townspeople will support you.

What is Council's obligation to comply with the Town Charter?

Please do the ordinance required by the Charter. It is referenced in section 303 regarding administration and fiduciary oversight of town finances.

I have called to your attention the claim made by a council member that Connecticut is one of the lowest tax states in the country. I've provided research from Denise Merrill's office to show otherwise. I've asked to know the basis for this claim; it was made at a council meeting. I'm asking again that this claim be substantiated or, possibly, that it be retracted.

74 Lynwood Road
Storrs, CT 06268
May 8, 2010

Mansfield Town Council
Mansfield, CT

Dear Members:

We are asking you to support the request to reallocate State funds for the purpose of making a second Family Changing Room at the Mansfield Community Center (MCC) wheelchair accessible.

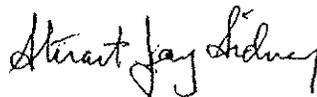
Not only is the one wheelchair-accessible room inadequate to accommodate users from both the therapy and main pools—I have spent too much time in a wet bathing suit, shivering in my wheelchair while waiting in the corridor for the room to become available—but recently the room was closed during the time needed to repair the shower floor. For me that meant no swimming and increased spasticity.

Obviously the MCC needs more than one wheelchair-accessible Family Changing Room as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Joan Seliger Sidney



Stuart Jay Sidney

5-10-10

To the town council

We support the reallocation of funds to make that second family ^{changing} room in the Community Center handicapped accessible. And we also support the sidewalk from Glen Ridge to Maple Road!

Jane Blanshan
Lydia Wad - Middells

Alicia Kolega
Anne Usher

Helen L. Bosco

Emabeth S. Tucker

Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *Matt*
CC: Town Employees
Date: May 10, 2010
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Budget and Finance

- *Annual Town Meeting, FY 2010/11 Proposed Budget* –The Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration will be held tomorrow, May 11, 2010, at 7:00 PM at the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium. The League of Women Voters of Mansfield will once again provide refreshments prior to the Annual Town Meeting. Come early to get checked in, receive your ballot and enjoy some baked goods and lemonade or coffee while you wait for the meeting to begin. The coffee will be ready in the school cafeteria by 6:30 p.m. Please bring a form of identification to verify your eligibility to vote and bring your own mug or beverage container to help keep our carbon foot print light. The Town Council will conduct a special meeting immediately following the town meeting to discuss setting the mill rate for FY 2010/11. Interested residents are encouraged to see the Town's [website](#) for budget-related information.

Departmental/Division News

- *Mansfield Public Library - Amy Ziffer from A Shady Lady Garden Design* will give a presentation on *A Connecticut Cottage Garden: Adapting a Classic Garden Style to New England* on May 14th at 7:00 PM in the Buchanan Auditorium. Ms. Ziffer has been designing, installing and maintaining gardens for clients in western Connecticut since 1998. She is a former editor at *Fine Gardening* magazine and a Master Gardener. *A Connecticut Cottage Garden: Adapting a Classic Garden Style to New England* is based on a unique cottage garden Ms. Ziffer designed and installed beginning in 2000. In this richly illustrated PowerPoint presentation, she will focus on what makes a cottage garden and how to adapt a style we associate with the English gardening tradition to our more challenging climate and environment. This program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For additional information contact the library at 860.423.2501.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Police Study* – Next Monday and Thursday, the Regionalism Committee and key staff will interview five firms that responded to our request for qualifications (RFQ) to conduct an evaluation of present and future police services for the Town. As you will recall, the study has been highlighted as an objective under *Mansfield 2020* (strategic plan). The committee's initial goal is to evaluate the five firms and to recommend a preferred consultant for appointment by the Town Council. This is an important initiative for the Town and we need to devote the time necessary to the study to help ensure a thorough evaluation with a quality end product.

Member Organizations

- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership* - The Connecticut Main Street Center has announced the recipients for its 2010 Awards of Excellence. Among the honorees is the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc. The Partnership received the 2010 Award of Excellence for "Special Event" for its annual Festival on the Green. Now in its seventh year, the Festival on the Green is a community celebration that draws thousands of residents and visitors to the site of the future Storrs Center each September. As Chair of the Festival Committee, Mayor Paterson will accept the award on June 7 at CT Main Street's annual meeting in Bridgeport. UConn School of Fine Arts Dean David Woods and Partnership Advertising and Promotion Chair will also attend.
- *Windham Chamber of Commerce* - The Chamber of Commerce, Inc, Windham Region will be hosting an event celebrating the talents of local restaurants of Northeastern, Connecticut. "Taste of the Quiet Corner" will take place at the Willimantic Elks Lodge #1311. This event will feature sensational dishes and menu items from a variety of restaurants in the area. "Taste of the Quiet Corner" will take place Friday, June 4th, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Willimantic Elks club of 198 Pleasant Street Willimantic, Connecticut. Tickets are \$40.00 per guest.

Miscellaneous

- *Goodwin Fun Fair* - The Goodwin Fun Fair is on Saturday, May 22nd from 10-2 and it is the PTO's main fundraiser of the year. They have a variety of simple games for kids of all ages, such as bowling, ring toss, penny drop, face painting, a fish bowl game, cupcake decorating, a moon bounce, among many others. The PTO is looking for a commitment from former Goodwin students of an hour of help, if possible. Students should email Karri Prandy directly at karbear818@sbcglobal.net with their name, phone number and hour(s) they would like to help.
- *Storrs Farmers Market* - Storrs Farmers Market has begun its 16th season. The Market is open (rain or shine) every Saturday from 3:00 - 6:00 pm in the Town Hall parking lot. The only year-round market in the area, Storrs Farmers Market is a producer-only market. Everything sold at the market is "CT Grown," so the offerings change with the seasons. Visitors can expect to find all-natural beef, heritage breed pork and lamb, raw milk, and goats' milk and cheeses along with a vast array of vegetables and fruits, including heirloom varieties and sustainably-grown offerings. Hand-spun wool, local honey, local maple syrup, beeswax products, goats' milk soaps, and fresh baked goods are available all year. For more information, please email StorrsFarmersMarket@gmail.com.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, May 11, 2010, 11:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, May 11, 2010, 2:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town/University Relations Committee, May 11, 2010, 4:00 PM, University of Connecticut, Bishop Center, Room 146
- Historic District Commission, May 11, 2010, 8:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, May 11, 2010, immediately following Annual Town Meeting, Auditorium, Mansfield Middle School
- Zoning Board of Appeals, May 12, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, May 13, 2010, 4:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Board of Education, May 13, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, May 17, 2010, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Committee on Committees, May 17, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, May 19, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Transportation Advisory Committee, May 20, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, May 24, 2010, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, May 24, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Annual Town Meeting, May 11, 2010, 7:00 PM, Mansfield Middle School Auditorium

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the Town Calendar or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*



Town of Mansfield

Proclamation in Recognition of Emergency Services and Public Safety Personnel

Whereas, the University of Connecticut held its annual Spring Weekend event from Thursday, April 22, 2010 through Sunday, April 25, 2010; and,

Whereas, emergency services and public safety personnel from the Town of Mansfield, the State of Connecticut and area communities served the community with compassion and performed their duties with honor and distinction;

Whereas, these entities worked tirelessly and effectively throughout the weekend to prepare for and respond to activities that are not sanctioned by the university or the community and pose a threat to public safety;

Whereas, the town has received numerous positive comments from students, the university and the general public regarding the efforts of the emergency services and public safety personnel who assisted the community during Spring Weekend 2010; and

Whereas, the Mansfield Town Council wishes to express its appreciation to the Mansfield Fire Department, the Mansfield Resident Trooper's Office and the Office of Emergency Management, as well as all of the other state and area emergency services and public safety departments that provided assistance during Spring Weekend 2010:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mansfield Town Council, on behalf of the community, does hereby express its gratitude to the members of the Mansfield Fire Department, the Mansfield Resident Trooper's Office and the Office of Emergency Management, as well as all of the other responding state and area emergency services and public safety departments for their assistance to the Town of Mansfield during Spring Weekend 2010.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Mansfield to be affixed on this 10th day of May in the year 2010.

Elizabeth C. Paterson
Mayor, Town of Mansfield

May 1, 2010

To: Finance Committee, Mansfield Town Council

From: 4- Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee has thoroughly reviewed the current status of the sewer and water planning for the 4- Corners and evaluated the next steps that are needed to move the project to completion. The financing of the planning phases for both identification and subsequent permitting of a sustainable water source and the design of the sewer pump station are critical next steps. The surveying and final planning of the sewer and water lines are being completed by the DPW staff.

The Committee is asking you to recommend to the Council as a whole to authorize a Special Town Meeting in June for voting on the 4-Corners bonding of \$330,000.

The optimal time line for the next phases of the project is as follows:

May 15, 2010	Send out RFQ for water study and permitting Send out RFQ for sewer pump station design
June 30, 2010	If funding is authorized in June, 2010 --Select "short list" of consultants for RFP (pump station and water)
July 15-30, 2010	Review and select "short list" of preferred consultants for the two components.
Aug 15-30, 2010	Select preferred consultants for the two components
Sept - 2010	Finalize scope of services, negotiate final fee and sign consultant contracts.
Sept-Dec, 2010	Water consultant completes phase 1 (determination of best site to test for water and performs initial testing).
Dec- 2010	Sewer pump consultant completes design
Jan-Mar, 2011	Staff analysis of water and sewer pump consultants data Consultants start permitting process
Mar-June 2011	Start phase 3 of water study (drilling of test wells and permitting)
Mar-June 2011	Staff completes sewer and water line design

This time line would place the sewer project "shovel ready" by late summer, 2011 (if all permits are obtained) and the water supply portion "shovel ready" by spring of 2012. If these time lines are met, the potential for grant funding from both federal and state sources will be significantly enhanced.

We encourage your Committee to endorse the following:

- 1) Recommend to the Council the placing of the 4-Corners bond issue question on a ballot for a special Town Meeting to be held mid-late June, 2010.
- 2) At the May 24 Town Council meeting, 1) recommend scheduling a WPCA hearing on the 4- Corners bond issue for the June 7, 2010 Council meeting and 2) schedule special town meeting.
- 3) Conduct Special Town Meeting as scheduled to vote on 4-Corners bonding.

Any delay in authorization of funding for the proposed design phases of the 4-Corners project will most likely result in a delay of 1 year (will not be able to complete the first two phases of water design until spring, 2011) and be detrimental in obtaining grant funding in the next 2 years.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

4-Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee
Gene Nesbitt, Chair

**Town of Mansfield
School Building Committee**

***Financial Information for the School Buildings Project
Options C, D, & E Comparison***

May 6, 2010

Prepared by: Finance Department

Mansfield School Building Committee
 Estimated Cost Comparisons Recap
 May 6, 2010

	Annual Budget			
	2009/10	Option C	Option D	Option E
Total Project Construction Cost		\$ 65,058,400	\$ 48,039,000	\$ 59,583,000
Total Estimated Net Construction Cost		\$ 29,100,000	\$ 19,067,000	\$ 26,901,000
Estimated Reimbursement Rate		55.3%	60.3%	54.9%
Estimated Annual Costs:				
Capital Improvements/20 yrs		-		
Debt Service Payment/20 yrs		3,041,375	1,977,250	2,803,750
Salaries & Benefits - All schools	15,849,654	15,100,654	15,030,654	15,075,654
Maintenance Costs (Incl Salaries) *	1,882,106	1,661,606	1,395,646	1,489,246
Net Annual Cost	17,731,760	19,803,635	18,403,550	19,368,650
Percentage Increase		11.7%	3.8%	9.2%
Taxable Grand List	926,094,925	926,094,925	926,094,925	926,094,925
Mill Rate Equivalent	19.15	21.38	19.87	20.91
Mill Rate Increase/(Decrease)		2.24	0.73	1.77
Average Cost per Household (Median assessed value of \$168,000)	3,217	3,593	3,339	3,514
Average Cost per Household Increase/Decrease		376	122	297

* Option D assumes building a fully LEED certified building w/specific modifications for cleaning & maintenance efficiency.

Note: Debt Service Payments reflect the estimated first full year of principal and interest payments. Debt service payments will decline as annual principal payments are made.

Mansfield School Building Committee
 Estimated Mill Rate Breakdown
 May 6, 2010

	2009/10	Option C	Option D	Option E
Taxable Grand List	\$ 926,094,925	\$ 926,094,925	\$ 926,094,925	\$ 926,094,925
Capital/Debt Service Costs		\$ 3,041,375	\$ 1,977,250	\$ 2,803,750
Mill Rate Equivalent		3.28	2.14	3.03
Estimated Annual Costs:				
Salaries & Benefits - All schools	\$ 15,849,654	\$ 15,100,654	\$ 15,030,654	\$ 15,075,654
Maintenance Costs (Incl Salaries) *	1,882,106	1,661,606	1,395,646	1,489,246
Total Salaries, Benefits & Maint. Costs	17,731,760	16,762,260	16,426,300	16,564,900
Estimated Change in Annual Costs		(969,500)	(1,305,460)	(1,166,860)
Mill Rate Equivalent		(1.05)	(1.41)	(1.26)
Net Change in Mill Rate		2.24	0.73	1.77
Average Cost per Household Increase/Decrease (Median assessed value of \$168,000)		376	122	297

Mansfield School Building Committee
 Adjustments to Operating Costs From 2009/10 Adopted Budget
 May 6, 2010

	Option C	Option D	Option E
(1) Salaries/Wages and Benefits	\$ (749,000)	\$ (819,000)	\$ (774,000)
(2) Salaries/Wages and Benefits - Maintenance	(46,500)	(63,000)	(20,500)
Energy Adjustments	(165,000)	(381,600)	(337,500)
Refuse Collection	(18,000)	(18,000)	(18,000)
Building Maintenance Service	(6,000)	(6,000)	(1,000)
Building Repairs		(19,000)	(14,000)
Equipment Repair		(12,000)	(7,000)
Alarm Service		4,000	4,000
Grounds Supplies		(2,000)	
Building Supplies		(18,860)	(13,860)
(3) Maint. Of "Abandoned" Buildings	15,000	30,000	15,000
Net Adjustments to Operating Costs	<u>(969,500)</u>	<u>(1,305,460)</u>	<u>(1,166,860)</u>

(1) Reductions in Staffing	9.6 certified 5 non-certified	10.1 certified 6.5 non-certified	9.6 certified 6.0 non-certified
(2) Reductions in Staffing	1 custodial	1 custodial	
(3) Demolish (cost incl in construction)	n/a	1 School	2 Schools
Maintain vacated building	1 School	2 Schools	1 School

Mansfield School Building Committee
 Estimated Cost Comparisons
 May 6, 2010

	2009/10	Option C	Option D	Option E
Total Estimated Net Construction Cost		\$ 29,100,000	\$ 19,067,000	\$ 26,901,000
Estimated Annual Costs:				
Capital Improvements/20 yrs				
Debt Service Payment/20 yrs		3,041,375	1,977,250	2,803,750
Salaries & Wages	12,681,480	12,082,280	12,026,280	12,062,280
Benefits	3,168,174	3,018,374	3,004,374	3,013,374
Estimated Annual Maintenance Costs*:				
Salaries & Wages	653,310	619,310	619,310	653,310
Benefits	182,326	173,826	173,826	182,326
Substitutes	25,000	25,000	20,000	20,000
Overtime	51,500	51,500	40,000	40,000
Summer Help	16,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Travel & Conference Fees	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Training	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Prof & Tech Services	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Refuse Collection	38,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Bldg Maintenance Service	46,000	40,000	40,000	45,000
Building Repairs	39,000	39,000	20,000	25,000
Equipment Repair	42,000	42,000	30,000	35,000
Alarm Service	8,000	8,000	12,000	12,000
Voice Communications	53,800	53,800	53,800	53,800
Grounds Supplies	4,000	4,000	2,000	4,000
Energy-Fuel Oil, Elec, Nat Gas	637,500	472,500	255,900	300,000
Propane	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500
Clean Energy	610	610	610	610
Building Supplies	63,860	63,860	45,000	50,000
Uniforms	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Equipment Other	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600
Maintenance of "abandoned" bldg		15,000	30,000	15,000
Net Annual Cost	17,731,760	19,803,635	18,403,550	19,368,650
Taxable Grand List				
	926,094,925	926,094,925	926,094,925	926,094,925
Mill Rate Equivalent	19.15	21.38	19.87	20.91
Mill Rate Increase/(Decrease)		2.24	0.73	1.77
Average Cost per Household				
	3,217	3,593	3,339	3,514
(Median assessed value of \$168,000)				
Avg. Cost Increase/(Decrease)		376	122	297

* Assumes building a fully LEED certified building and specific modifications for cleaning & maintenance efficiency. Energy costs estimated at .50/sq foot for an Energy Star rating of 75 or better.

Estimated Debt Schedule
Schools Option C

Principal \$ 29,827,500
(Incl issuance costs @ 2.5%)
Interest Rate 5.000%

Issue Date: 12/15/2012
20 Year Payback

	Fiscal Year	Due Date	Principal	Interest	Total Debt Service
1	12/13	06/15/13		745,688	745,688
2	13/14	12/15/13		745,688	745,688
	13/14	06/15/14	1,550,000	745,688	2,295,688
3	14/15	12/15/14		706,938	706,938
	14/15	06/15/15	1,550,000	706,938	2,256,938
4	15/16	12/15/15		668,188	668,188
	15/16	06/15/16	1,550,000	668,188	2,218,188
5	16/17	12/15/16		629,438	629,438
	16/17	06/15/17	1,550,000	629,438	2,179,438
6	17/18	12/15/17		590,688	590,688
	17/18	06/15/18	1,550,000	590,688	2,140,688
7	18/19	12/15/18		551,938	551,938
	18/19	06/15/19	1,550,000	551,938	2,101,938
8	19/20	12/15/19		513,188	513,188
	19/20	06/15/20	1,550,000	513,188	2,063,188
9	20/21	12/15/20		474,438	474,438
	20/21	06/15/21	1,550,000	474,438	2,024,438
10	21/22	12/15/21		435,688	435,688
	21/22	06/15/22	1,550,000	435,688	1,985,688
11	22/23	12/15/22		396,938	396,938
	22/23	06/15/23	1,550,000	396,938	1,946,938
12	23/24	12/15/23		358,188	358,188
	23/24	06/15/24	1,550,000	358,188	1,908,188
13	24/25	12/15/24		319,438	319,438
	24/25	06/15/25	1,577,500	319,438	1,896,938
14	25/26	12/15/25		280,000	280,000
	25/26	06/15/26	1,600,000	280,000	1,880,000
15	26/27	12/15/26		240,000	240,000
	26/27	06/15/27	1,600,000	240,000	1,840,000
16	27/28	12/15/27		200,000	200,000
	27/28	06/15/28	1,600,000	200,000	1,800,000
17	28/29	12/15/28		160,000	160,000
	28/29	06/15/29	1,600,000	160,000	1,760,000
18	29/30	12/15/29		120,000	120,000
	29/30	06/15/30	1,600,000	120,000	1,720,000
19	30/31	12/15/30		80,000	80,000
	30/31	06/15/31	1,600,000	80,000	1,680,000
20	31/32	12/15/31		40,000	40,000
	31/32	06/15/32	1,600,000	40,000	1,640,000
			29,827,500	15,767,188	45,594,688

Possibly do in more than one issue

Estimated Debt Schedule
Schools Option D

Principal \$ 19,545,000
(Incl issuance costs @ 2.5%)
Interest Rate 5.000%

Issue Date: 12/15/2012
20 Year Payback

	Fiscal Year	Due Date	Principal	Interest	Total Debt Service
1	12/13	06/15/13		488,625	488,625
2	13/14	12/15/13		488,625	488,625
	13/14	06/15/14	1,000,000	488,625	1,488,625
3	14/15	12/15/14		463,625	463,625
	14/15	06/15/15	1,000,000	463,625	1,463,625
4	15/16	12/15/15		438,625	438,625
	15/16	06/15/16	1,000,000	438,625	1,438,625
5	16/17	12/15/16		413,625	413,625
	16/17	06/15/17	1,000,000	413,625	1,413,625
6	17/18	12/15/17		388,625	388,625
	17/18	06/15/18	1,000,000	388,625	1,388,625
7	18/19	12/15/18		363,625	363,625
	18/19	06/15/19	1,000,000	363,625	1,363,625
8	19/20	12/15/19		338,625	338,625
	19/20	06/15/20	1,000,000	338,625	1,338,625
9	20/21	12/15/20		313,625	313,625
	20/21	06/15/21	1,000,000	313,625	1,313,625
10	21/22	12/15/21		288,625	288,625
	21/22	06/15/22	1,000,000	288,625	1,288,625
11	22/23	12/15/22		263,625	263,625
	22/23	06/15/23	1,000,000	263,625	1,263,625
12	23/24	12/15/23		238,625	238,625
	23/24	06/15/24	1,000,000	238,625	1,238,625
13	24/25	12/15/24		213,625	213,625
	24/25	06/15/25	1,000,000	213,625	1,213,625
14	25/26	12/15/25		188,625	188,625
	25/26	06/15/26	1,000,000	188,625	1,188,625
15	26/27	12/15/26		163,625	163,625
	26/27	06/15/27	1,045,000	163,625	1,208,625
16	27/28	12/15/27		137,500	137,500
	27/28	06/15/28	1,100,000	137,500	1,237,500
17	28/29	12/15/28		110,000	110,000
	28/29	06/15/29	1,100,000	110,000	1,210,000
18	29/30	12/15/29		82,500	82,500
	29/30	06/15/30	1,100,000	82,500	1,182,500
19	30/31	12/15/30		55,000	55,000
	30/31	06/15/31	1,100,000	55,000	1,155,000
20	31/32	12/15/31		27,500	27,500
	31/32	06/15/32	1,100,000	27,500	1,127,500
			19,545,000	10,445,125	29,990,125

Estimated Debt Schedule
Schools Option E

Principal \$ 27,575,000
(Incl issuance costs @ 2.5%)
Interest Rate 5.000%

Issue Date: 12/15/2012
20 Year Payback

	Fiscal Year	Due Date	Principal	Interest	Total Debt Service
1	12/13	06/15/13		689,375	689,375
2	13/14	12/15/13		689,375	689,375
	13/14	06/15/14	1,425,000	689,375	2,114,375
3	14/15	12/15/14		653,750	653,750
	14/15	06/15/15	1,425,000	653,750	2,078,750
4	15/16	12/15/15		618,125	618,125
	15/16	06/15/16	1,425,000	618,125	2,043,125
5	16/17	12/15/16		582,500	582,500
	16/17	06/15/17	1,425,000	582,500	2,007,500
6	17/18	12/15/17		546,875	546,875
	17/18	06/15/18	1,425,000	546,875	1,971,875
7	18/19	12/15/18		511,250	511,250
	18/19	06/15/19	1,425,000	511,250	1,936,250
8	19/20	12/15/19		475,625	475,625
	19/20	06/15/20	1,425,000	475,625	1,900,625
9	20/21	12/15/20		440,000	440,000
	20/21	06/15/21	1,425,000	440,000	1,865,000
10	21/22	12/15/21		404,375	404,375
	21/22	06/15/22	1,425,000	404,375	1,829,375
11	22/23	12/15/22		368,750	368,750
	22/23	06/15/23	1,425,000	368,750	1,793,750
12	23/24	12/15/23		333,125	333,125
	23/24	06/15/24	1,425,000	333,125	1,758,125
13	24/25	12/15/24		297,500	297,500
	24/25	06/15/25	1,425,000	297,500	1,722,500
14	25/26	12/15/25		261,875	261,875
	25/26	06/15/26	1,475,000	261,875	1,736,875
15	26/27	12/15/26		225,000	225,000
	26/27	06/15/27	1,500,000	225,000	1,725,000
16	27/28	12/15/27		187,500	187,500
	27/28	06/15/28	1,500,000	187,500	1,687,500
17	28/29	12/15/28		150,000	150,000
	28/29	06/15/29	1,500,000	150,000	1,650,000
18	29/30	12/15/29		112,500	112,500
	29/30	06/15/30	1,500,000	112,500	1,612,500
19	30/31	12/15/30		75,000	75,000
	30/31	06/15/31	1,500,000	75,000	1,575,000
20	31/32	12/15/31		37,500	37,500
	31/32	06/15/32	1,500,000	37,500	1,537,500
			27,575,000	14,630,625	42,205,625

Connecticut State Department of Education
Finance and Internal Operations

2010-2011 Reimbursement Percentages
Status of data: Preliminary

Town	Name	Wealth (AENGLC) Rank	Adult Education (0-65%) [1]	Transportation (0-60%) [2]	School Construction (20-80%) [3]	Health Services (10-90%) [4]
57	GREENWICH	1	0.00	0.00	20.00	10.00
58	GRISWOLD	154	59.20	54.04	74.64	82.86
59	GROTON	131	50.30	44.90	66.43	71.90
60	GUILFORD	32	11.99	5.56	31.07	24.76
62	HAMDEN	120	46.04	40.53	62.50	80.00
63	HAMPTON	133	51.07	45.70	67.14	72.86
64	HARTFORD	169	65.00	60.00	80.00	90.00
65	HARTLAND	99	37.92	32.19	55.00	56.67
67	HEBRON	92	35.21	29.40	52.50	53.33
68	KENT	19	6.96	0.40	26.43	18.57
69	KILLINGLY	150	57.65	52.45	73.21	80.95
71	LEBANON	112	42.95	37.35	59.64	62.86
72	LEDYARD	126	48.36	42.91	64.64	69.52
73	LISBON	128	49.14	43.71	65.36	70.48
74	LITCHFIELD	48	18.18	11.92	36.79	32.38
76	MADISON	25	9.29	2.78	28.57	21.43
77	MANCHESTER	147	56.49	51.26	72.14	80.00
78	MANSFIELD	155	59.58	54.44	75.00	83.33
79	MARLBOROUGH	65	24.76	18.68	42.86	40.48
80	MERIDEN	161	61.90	56.82	77.14	86.19
83	MIDDLETOWN	122	54.32	41.32	63.21	80.00
84	MILFORD	61	23.21	17.09	41.43	38.57
85	MONROE	44	16.64	10.33	35.36	30.48
86	MONTVILLE	142	54.55	49.27	70.36	77.14
88	NAUGATUCK	146	56.10	50.86	71.79	80.00
89	NEW BRITAIN	166	63.84	58.81	78.93	88.57
90	NEW CANAAN	2	0.39	0.00	20.36	10.48
91	NEW FAIRFIELD	41	15.48	9.14	34.29	29.05
92	NEW HARTFORD	72	27.47	21.46	45.36	43.81
93	NEW HAVEN	168	64.61	59.60	79.64	89.52
94	NEWINGTON	97	37.14	31.39	54.29	55.71
95	NEW LONDON	162	62.29	57.22	77.50	86.67
96	NEW MILFORD	59	22.44	16.29	40.71	37.62
97	NEWTOWN	34	12.77	6.36	31.79	25.71
98	NORFOLK	29	10.83	4.37	30.00	23.33
99	NORTH BRANFORD	95	36.37	30.60	53.57	54.76
100	NORTH CANAAN	123	47.20	41.72	63.57	68.10
101	NORTH HAVEN	67	25.54	19.47	43.57	41.43
102	NORTH STONINGTON	78	29.79	23.84	47.50	46.67
103	NORWALK	36	20.00	7.15	32.50	80.00
104	NORWICH	158	65.00	55.63	76.07	84.76
106	OLD SAYBROOK	26	9.67	3.18	28.93	21.90
107	ORANGE	50	18.96	12.72	37.50	33.33
108	OXFORD	73	27.86	21.85	45.71	44.29
109	PLAINFIELD	156	59.97	54.83	75.36	83.81
110	PLAINVILLE	132	50.68	45.30	66.79	72.38
111	PLYMOUTH	148	56.88	51.66	72.50	80.00
112	POMFRET	109	41.79	36.16	58.57	61.43
113	PORTLAND	110	42.17	36.56	58.93	61.90
114	PRESTON	114	43.72	38.15	60.36	63.81

[1] For Priority School Districts, their percentage shall not be less than 20%.

Increased by 7.5 percentage points but not to exceed 65% for local boards of education providing adult education programs at the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Facilities provided such adults reside at such facilities.

[2] Increased by 10 percentage points for K-12 regional districts and 5 percentage points for secondary regional districts.

[3] Increased by 10 percentage points for K-12 and secondary regional districts and cooperative arrangements and 5 percentage points for endowed academies. For regional districts and endowed academies the percentage cannot exceed 85%.

[4] For any town whose % of TFA to population exceeds 1% or whose AENGLC rank is numerically higher than 30 and which provided health services to greater than 1,500 nonresident children, their percentage shall not be less than 80%.

[*] Reimbursement % = (((AENGLC RANK - 1) / N - 1) x RANGE) + RANGE LOW + BONUS
N = # of towns subject to the continuous scale; for transportation (AENGLC RANK - 18)

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
 PROJECTED DEBT SERVICE
 As of May 10, 2010 (Revised)

Outstanding Debt at June 30, 2010		\$ 1,520,000	
Authorized but Unissued:			
MMS Heating Conversion	\$ 1,025,000		
Community Center Air Conditioning	170,000		
Storrs Center Streetscape	302,000		
Salt Shed	264,000		
Hunting Lodge Road Walkway	<u>106,000</u>		
Total Authorized but Unissued		1,867,000	
Council Proposed 2010/11 Budget:			
Open Space	1,000,000		
Stone Mill/Laurel Land Bridges	420,150		
4 Corners Sewer/Water Design	330,000		
Misc Equip & Improvements	<u>263,000</u>		
Total Proposed 2010/11 Bonding		<u>2,013,150</u>	
Sub-total Projected Debt Service		\$ 5,400,150	\$ 5,400,150
Potential Debt Issuance:			
Option D Debt Issuance		19,545,000	
Option E Debt Issuance			27,575,000
Est. Region 19 Track Renovation @ 56% (2011/12)		<u>1,106,000</u>	<u>1,106,000</u>
Total Potential Debt Service		<u>26,051,150</u>	<u>34,081,150</u>
State Statute Debt Limitation:			
Total Collections 06/30/2009		\$23,476,072	
2.25 times Total Tax Collections - General Purpose			\$ 52,821,162
4.5 times Total Tax Collections - Schools			\$ 105,642,324
Mansfield Financial Management Goals:			
3% of Total Assessment Value			\$ 29,072,730
\$500 Per Capital Limit			\$ 13,250,000

From: Gillette, Douglas W. [mailto:dwgillette@daypitney.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 12:59 PM
To: Cherie A. Trahan
Cc: Blank, Judith A.
Subject: RE: Town of Mansfield -- Elementary Schools Referendum Ballot Questions

Cherie: As the General Statutes require a "Yes" or "No" response to referendum questions and all voters are eligible to vote on both questions, the typical way such alternatives would be laid out is as follows:

Question 1: "SHALL THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD APPROPRIATE \$_____ FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT [A] AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THAT PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAID FROM GRANTS?"

Question 2: "SHALL THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD, IF QUESTION 1 IS DEFEATED, APPROPRIATE \$_____ FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT [B] AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THAT PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAID FROM GRANTS?"

One of the risks of this format is that it tends to split the "pro-school" vote, while the "no" vote group votes in the negative on both questions. This could also have an effect on meeting the favorable vote requirement of at least 15% of the voters listed on the last completed registry list vote for approval of a question.

The matrix of results is:

- Question 1 and 2 both approved, Question 1 goes forward.
- Question 1 approved and Question 2 defeated, Question 1 goes forward.
- Question 1 defeated and Question 2 approved, Question 2 goes forward.
- Question 1 and 2 both defeated, neither goes forward.

This gets a little complicated, and there may be some political considerations as to which proposal is Question 1 and which proposal is Question 2.

Please let me know how we can be of further assistance.

Cordially,
Doug

IRS Circular 230 Notice: Any tax advice provided herein (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed on any taxpayer.



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *MH*
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Jessie Shea, Planning Office;
 Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works
Date: May 24, 2010
Re: Public Hearing, FY 2010 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant
 Program Application

Subject Matter/Background

The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain citizens' views on the Town's community development and housing needs and to review and to discuss specific project activities in the areas of housing, economic development or community facilities which could be a part of the Town's application for funding.

Based on a demonstrated need and interest from community members, the Town plans to submit an application to construct an extension of the walkway along the South Eagleville Road/Maple Road intersection to the South Eagleville Road/Separatist Road intersection. Since posting the public notice and as of the writing of this memorandum, the Town has received three letters of support for this project. In addition, over the years our Department of Public Works has received a great deal of communication from community members in support of this project.

Other potential or proposed projects eligible for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding may also be reviewed and discussed at this hearing. Staff will be available at the public hearing to review the status of its current CDBG activities.

Financial Impact

HUD provides CDBG money to states, which may distribute the resources to non-entitlement communities (population less than 50,000). If awarded, the grant will provide funding in an amount estimated at \$225,000. The Town's financial contribution is estimated at \$10,000, which would be comprised primarily of in-kind resources such as staff time for project administration and design.

Attachment

- 1) Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Mansfield will conduct a public hearing on May 24, 2010 at 7:30p.m. in the Audrey Beck Municipal Building, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268 to discuss its Fiscal Year 2010 Community Development Block Grant Program Application and to solicit citizen input.

Standard award limits by project category are \$750,000 per Fiscal Year for Public Facilities, \$700,000 per Fiscal Year for Public Housing Modernization, \$500,000 per Fiscal Year for Infrastructure and \$300,000 per Fiscal Year for Housing Rehabilitation Programs. A community is limited to only one (1) application submission per funding round.

Major activity categories are Housing Acquisition, Housing-Rehabilitation, Community Facilities/Public Services, and Economic Development. Projects funded with CDBG funds must meet at least one of three National Objectives, as follows: benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, elimination of slums and blight, or meeting urgent community development needs.

The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain citizens' views on the Town's community development and housing needs and review and discuss specific project activities in the areas of housing, economic development or community facilities which could be a part of the Town's Application for funding.

The Town anticipates applying for the maximum grant amount of \$225,000 under the infrastructure/community development category for constructing a sidewalk from the intersection of South Eagleville Road/Maple Road to South Eagleville Road/Separatist Road.

The public hearing will also give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known on the proposed project and for review of the Program Income Reuse Plan. The Town will also discuss the status of its current CDBG projects. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you may direct written comments to Maria Capriola, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268 or you may telephone 860-429-3336 or via email at planzonedept@mansfieldct.org. Additional information may be obtained at the above address between the hours of 8:15a.m. – 4:30p.m. Mondays-Wednesdays, 8:15a.m. – 6:30p.m. Thursdays, and 8:00a.m. – noon Fridays.

All are encouraged to attend. The hearing is accessible to the handicapped. Any disabled persons requiring special assistance or non-English speaking persons should contact Maria Capriola, ADA Coordinator at 860-429-3336 at least five days prior to the hearing.

The Town of Mansfield promotes fair housing and makes all programs available to low- and moderate-income families regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual preference, marital status, or handicap.

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action

Please publish twice in the Willimantic Chronicle. The first publication date of May 4, 2010 and the second publication date of May 18, 2010.



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *Matt*
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Jessie Shea, Planning Office;
Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works
Date: May 24, 2010
Re: Application for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for
Sidewalk Project

Subject Matter/Background

Staff recommends that the Town submit a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DECD) to construct an extension of the walkway along South Eagleville Road from the South Eagleville Road/Maple Road intersection to the South Eagleville Road/Separatist Road intersection. If awarded, the grant would provide funding in an amount estimated at \$225,000.

To submit the application, which is due June 4, 2010, DECD requires that the Town Council adopt a resolution in support of the project.

Financial Impact

The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides CDBG money to states, which may distribute the resources to non-entitlement communities (population less than 50,000). Potential funding sources for this project include CDBG funding and a \$10,000 contribution from the Town to be used as leverage for the project (CDBG funds are administered through DECD).

Recommendation

If the Town Council is in support of submitting a grant application for the sidewalk project along South Eagleville Road, the following resolution is in order:

WHEREAS, federal monies are available under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C § 5301, et. seq., as amended, also known as Public Law 93-383, and administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development as the Connecticut Small Cities Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of

Economic and Community Development is authorized disburse such federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Mansfield make an application to the State for \$225,000 in order to undertake and carryout a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of the CGS
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by The Town of Mansfield in an amount not to exceed \$225,000 is hereby approved and that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, to carryout approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Mansfield.



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *Matt*
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Gregory Padick, Director of Planning
Date: May 24, 2010
Re: PZC Referral: Draft Zoning Revisions Regarding Definitions of Family and Boarding House

Subject Matter/Background

At the last Council meeting, Council reviewed the subject referral from the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) and voted to postpone until its next regular meeting any action on the proposed revisions to the definition of family and boarding house. As requested, staff has attached additional information regarding the PZC public hearing on the draft revisions to the regulations.

Attachments

- 1) 4/29/10 report from Director of Planning
- 2) 4/8/10 draft Zoning Regulations with explanatory notes
- 3) Excerpts from 5/3/10 PZC minutes
- 4) 5/3/10 report from Town Attorney
- 5) Citizen comments

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

GREGORY J. PADICK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Memo to: Planning & Zoning Commission
From: Gregory J. Padick, Director of Planning 
Date: April 29, 2010
Re: 5/3/10 Public Hearing on PZC-proposed revisions to the Zoning Regulations:
Definitions of Family and Boarding House; Political Signs, File #907-32

General

Please find attached a copy of the legal notice for the May 3, 2010 Public Hearing. This notice provides a summary of the proposed revisions. At Monday's meeting, I will make a brief presentation outlining the proposed revisions and rationale for considering the proposed revisions. I also will address any questions from Commission members and the public. After receiving public comments, the PZC will have to recess the hearing to receive comments from the WINCOG Regional Planning Commission which meets on May 5th. May 17th and June 7th are potential dates for the continued public hearing. Once the Hearing is closed, only technical assistance from staff may be received by the Commission. Current state statutes authorize the PZC to modify the proposed revisions prior to adoption, but to minimize any potential procedural issues, an independent Hearing should be considered for any significant alterations.

In addition to the referral to the WINCOG Regional Planning Commission, the proposed revisions have been referred to the Town Clerks of neighboring Towns and they have been filed with the Mansfield Town Clerk. The proposed revisions also have been posted on the Town's web site and communicated to all individuals who have signed up for the Town's Registry which was established pursuant to state statutes. Referrals also have been sent to the Town Attorney, Town Council, Zoning Board of Appeals and American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut. All communications received prior to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 3rd will be copied and distributed to PZC members.

As with any Zoning or Subdivision regulation amendment, the PZC must weight anticipated public and private benefits versus anticipated public and private costs. All municipal land use regulations should be designed to serve a community need while protecting the public's health, safety, convenience and property values. The Commission has the legislative discretion to determine what is best for the Town as a whole, and zoning districts and land use regulations can and should be modified to meet changing circumstances or address a recognized public need. Sections 8-2 and 8-25 of the CT General Statutes and Articles I and XIII of our Zoning Regulations provide information on the legislative basis, procedure and criteria for considering Zoning Map and regulations revisions. Collective reasons for PZC legislative actions should be clearly documented, and Section 8-3.a of the State Statutes requires the Commission to make a public finding regarding the consistency of the proposed revisions with respect to the Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development.

Review Considerations

In reviewing the proposed regulation revisions, a number of factors must be considered. These factors include policies, objectives and recommendations contained in Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development and state and regional land use plans and legal appropriateness. Article XIII, Section D includes or references additional information regarding approval considerations. I will initially comment on the proposed revisions to the Zoning Definition of Family and Boarding House and in a separate portion of this memo, I will comment on the proposed political sign revisions.

PROPOSED DEFINITION OF FAMILY; BOARDING HOUSE

Mansfield's current definition of Family, which has not changed since 1972, is used to regulate the occupancy of dwelling units in Town. It particularly affects the occupancy of single-family homes and can significantly affect the overall character of single family neighborhoods. Since 1972, there have been significant demographic changes in the nature and character of American families and dwelling unit occupancy. Associated with these changes, there have been a number of court cases that have altered and refined a Planning and Zoning Commission's right to regulate the occupancy of dwelling units. The attached 2001 article: "Connecticut Family Values" by Attorney Dwight Merriam and 2008 article: "Its all in the Family" by Attorney Mark Branse provide insight into the legal background and challenges related to regulating family occupancy. A report from Mansfield's Town Attorney will specifically address the legal appropriateness of the 4/8/10 draft revisions to the Zoning Definition of Family and Boarding House. It is noted that the proposed boarding house revision is needed to be consistent with the proposed definition of families category for unrelated individuals.

The proposed definition of family contains five categories that define acceptable occupancy as a family. These categories are considered necessary to address specific issues that have arisen regarding the current definition, its legal appropriateness and the ability to enforce its provisions.

Categories one and two define acceptable occupancy based on blood relations, marriage or civil union, authorized custodial relationships or relationships among couples with children from prior unions. The current definition does not specifically recognize many of these occupancy arrangements. To facilitate enforcement of the blood relations provisions, the proposed definition more specifically defines the extent of the blood relationship that would qualify. This approach has been used in other municipalities.

Category three authorizes up to three (3) unrelated individuals, which is a decrease from the current provision which is interpreted to allow up to four (4) unrelated individuals to automatically qualify as a family. This change is expected to help reduce neighborhood impact issues that have occurred due to occupancy by unrelated individuals, to help reduce the number of new locations where single family dwelling units are occupied by unrelated persons and to facilitate the future enforcement of residential occupancy requirements. The proposed revision is designed to help protect the character of Mansfield's single family neighborhoods. Since 1992, Willington's Zoning Regulations have limited the number of unrelated persons to three (3). *New Britain also has a maximum of 3 unrel. indiv.*

Over the past decade Mansfield has experienced a significant increase in the number of single family dwelling units that have been rented to unrelated individuals, particularly students enrolled at the University of Connecticut or Eastern Connecticut State University. In many cases, the occupancy of single family dwellings by unrelated persons have resulted in ongoing neighborhood impacts including excessive noise, partying during late night/early morning hours, frequent emergency service visitations, trespassing, parking on lawns and unsafe areas and poor property maintenance. This situation has detrimentally affected the public's health, safety and welfare. Since the year 2000, the Zoning Agent's "watch list" of dwelling units occupied by unrelated individuals that have violated, or reportedly violated, zoning regulations and occupancy provisions has increased from twenty-one (21) to eighty-five (85) sites. Reducing the number of unrelated individuals to three is expected to facilitate enforcement of the occupancy provision of the Zoning Regulations.

Since Mansfield adopted a Housing Code and Landlord Registry in 2006, there has been an increase in the number of single family dwellings occupied by unrelated individuals. Based on Housing Department records, there have been approximately forty (40) new occupancies of single family dwellings by unrelated individuals in the last three (3) years. By reducing the number of unrelated individuals to three

(3), it is expected that fewer absentee landlords will find economic benefit in purchasing single family dwellings for the purpose of renting to unrelated individuals.

include family
Category four is designed to recognize that groups of unrelated individuals can live together and maintain a permanent and stable common household that in effect functions in the same manner as those related by blood, marriage, civil unions or custodial relationships. Specific criteria have been proposed based on regulations used in other communities, particularly college towns including Ann Arbor Michigan and Aves, Iowa.

Category five recognizes federally protected groups subject to documentation that "reasonable accommodation" criteria have been met. This section was drafted based on research conducted by the Town Attorney with assistance from other Town representatives.

The subject definition of Family regulation revision has been under review for many years. Recently Mansfield's Community Quality of Life Commission (see 3/11/10 letter) endorsed the proposed reduction of unrelated individuals to three (3). Many other college towns throughout the country have utilized two (2). It also is important to note that if the new definition is approved, all existing single family uses that comply with the current definition of family but would not comply with the new definition would be allowed to continue the use as a non-conformity. Documentation of any non-conforming use may be required. Based on non-conforming use protections, the proposed definition revisions would primarily affect any new occupancies.

One of the four (4) policy goals of Mansfield's 2006 Plan of Conservation and Development is "To strengthen and encourage a sense of neighborhood and community throughout Mansfield". Similar goals and objectives are contained in regional and state land use plans. Under this goal, objective e on page 51 includes a recommendation that the Zoning definition of family be reviewed and as appropriate revised. Based on this statement, the proposed revision is considered compatible with Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development. It also is noted that in Mansfield's 2008 "A Unified Vision Strategic Plan" under the Housing Vision Point there is an action item entitled "Promoting neighborhood cohesion/preventing blight problems/reduction in property maintenance problems". A specific action step under this section is to "redefine occupancy rules (categories) to three unrelated people".

A minor misspelling in Category 5 needs to be addressed. Pursuant should be changed to pursuit.

POLITICAL SIGNS

The proposed change to the political sign regulations was prompted by American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut concerns that Mansfield's existing regulations were illegal. After review with the Town Attorney, it was determined that existing standards for political signs on private property should be eliminated. The proposed provision would retain a provision that prohibits political signs on public property except for street right-of-way areas adjacent to private lots where prior approval of the abutter has been obtained. The draft includes recommendations designed to help reduce neighborhood impact and potential litter problems.

Summary/Recommendation

The proposed regulation revisions present policy issues for the Commission's legislative discretion. The PZC must determine that the proposed revisions are legally appropriate, promote goals, objectives and recommendations contained in municipal, regional and state land use plans and in general promote the public's health, safety and welfare. The statutory provisions of Sections 8-2, 8-18 and 8-25 and the regulatory provisions of Article XIII, Section D of Mansfield's Zoning Regulations provide a legal basis and procedural guidance for making this determination. Pursuant to Section 8-3 (a) of the State Statutes, any approved revisions must include a finding with respect to compatibility with the Mansfield Plan of Conservation and Development. The PZC must consider all communications received during the Public Hearing process, but once the Hearing has been closed, no additional input shall be received except for technical assistance from staff. The PZC has the right to modify the proposed revisions prior to adoption, but any significant alterations should be presented through an additional Public Hearing review process. If the Commission decides to approve the regulation revisions, explanatory notes provided with the draft regulations and information contained in this report and associated attachments should be considered in preparing reasons for approval.

As previously noted, the Public Hearing must be extended to a future meeting to allow time for referral comments from the WINCOG Regional Planning Commission.

April 8, 2010 DRAFT
Proposed Revision to the Zoning Regulations:
Definitions of Family and Boarding House

(New provisions are underlined or otherwise indicated)

(Deletions are bracketed or otherwise indicated)

(Explanatory Notes are provided to assist with an understanding of the proposed revisions. These notes are not part of the proposed zoning revision)

1. Delete in its entirety existing Article IV, Section B.25 Definition of Family.

25. [Family. One or more persons who live together and maintain a common household, related by blood, marriage, or adoption. A family may also include domestic help and gratuitous guests. In addition, a family may include not more than three persons who are not related by blood, marriage or adoption.]

2. Add a new Article IV, Section B.25 Definition of Family to read as follows:
 25. Family: A person living alone, or any of the following groups living together as a single non-profit housekeeping unit and sharing common living, sleeping, cooking and eating facilities:
 1. Any number of people related by blood, marriage, civil union, adoption, foster care, guardianship or other duly authorized custodial relationship, gratuitous guests, domestic help and not more than one (1) additional unrelated person. (Related by blood shall include only persons having one of the following relationships with another individual(s) residing within the same dwelling unit: parents, grandparents, children, sisters, brothers, grandchildren, stepchildren, first cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews);
 2. Two (2) unrelated persons and any children related to either of them;
 3. A cumulative total of up to three (3) adult persons. More than three (3) adult persons may qualify as a family pursuant to other categories of this definition;
 4. Persons living together as a functional family as determined by the criteria listed below. For the purpose of enforcing these regulations, it shall be assumed (presumptive evidence) that more than three (3) persons living together, who do not qualify as a family based on categories one or two of this definition, do not constitute a functional family. To qualify as a functional family, the following criteria shall be met:
 - A. The occupants must share the entire dwelling unit and live and cook together as a single housekeeping unit. A unit in which the various occupants act as separate roomers may not be deemed to be occupied by a functional family;
 - B. The group shares expenses for food, rent or ownership costs, utilities and other household expenses;
 - C. The group is permanent and stable. Evidence of such permanency and stability may include:
 1. The presence of minor dependent children regularly residing in the household who are enrolled in local schools;
 2. Members of the household have the same address for purposes of voter's registration, driver's license, motor vehicle registration and filing of taxes;
 3. Members of the household are employed in the area;
 4. The household has been living together as a unit for a year or more whether in the current dwelling unit or other dwelling units;
 5. There is common ownership of furniture and appliances among the members of the household; and
 6. The group is not transient or temporary in nature;

April 8, 2010 DRAFT
Proposed Revision to the Zoning Regulations:
Definitions of Family and Boarding House

- D. Any other factor reasonably related to whether or not the group is the functional equivalent of a family.
 - E. Occupancy in a dormitory, fraternity, sorority, club, tourist home, emergency shelter, rooming or boarding house, group home or similar group occupancy shall not be construed to be a family. Many of these land uses are defined in Article IV, Section B.
5. Any group protected by the “reasonable accommodation” criteria of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act or Fair Housing Act in that group members are the functional equivalent of a family sharing and in continued pursuant of their common commitment to rehabilitation or recovery from chronic drug or alcohol addiction or abuse, evidenced by substantial compliance with the following criteria, listed in order of importance:
- A. The residence facility is certified by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services as congregate sober housing.
 - B. Collectively, the residents lease the entire residence rather than any particular room.
 - C. Residents may remain indefinitely, but are required to leave the residence if they use drugs or alcohol.
 - D. Residents share equally most household expenses, including rent, a single household budget, most household chores, including cleaning, shopping and cooking, and the work of maintaining the premises.
 - E. Weekly meetings are used to discuss household, financial, logistical or interpersonal issues, and household safety, including fire safety.
 - F. Residents prepare food and eat together on a frequent basis and there is shared food in the refrigerator.
26. Revise Article IV, Section B.7 Definition of Boarding House to read as follows:
- a. **Board House.** A dwelling unit in which more than [four 4] three (3) persons, not a family reside.

Explanatory Note: The proposed revisions to Mansfield’s definition of family update and refine existing provisions, particularly with respect to blood relations; incorporate new provisions that authorize “functional families”; incorporate new provisions that authorize legally recognized living arrangements that qualify as “reasonable accommodation”; and reduce the number of unrelated individuals who automatically qualify as a family from four (4) to three (3). The proposed revisions, which recognize and provide for significant changes that have occurred over the past fifty years in family composition, are designed to preserve the character of Mansfield’s single family residential neighborhoods, protect property values, reduce the increasing number of single family homes that are purchased for the primary purpose of renting to transient persons (primarily college students), enhancing housing opportunities for families meeting the new definition and in general to promote the public health, welfare and safety. All existing single family uses that comply with the existing definition of family, but would not comply with the proposed definition of family, would become non-conforming uses if the new definition is adopted. Legally established non-conforming uses can be continued, regardless of ownership changes, unless there has been a voluntary change in use or a clear intent to abandon rights to the pre-existing non-conforming use. The proposed revisions to Mansfield’s definition of Board House are necessary to be consistent with the proposed definition of family.

MINUTES

MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting, Monday, May 3, 2010

Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, J. Goodwin (7:48 p.m.), R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan
Alternates present: F. Loxsom, K. Rawn
Alternates absent: V. Stearns
Staff Present: Gregory Padick (Director of Planning)

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and appointed Rawn to act until Goodwin arrived.

Minutes:

4/19/10-Hall MOVED, Ryan seconded, to approve the 4/19/10 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Plante who disqualified himself.

Public Hearing:

Draft Revisions to the Zoning Regulations Definitions of Family and Boarding House; Political Signs, PZC File 907-32

Chairman Favretti opened the public hearing at 7:36 p.m. Members present were R. Favretti, M. Beal, J. Goodwin (7:48 p.m.), R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan and alternates F. Loxsom, K. Rawn. Alternate Rawn was appointed to act until Goodwin's arrival. G. Padick, Director of Planning, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the Chronicle on 4/20/10 and 4/28/10 and noted the following communications received and distributed to all members of the Commission: a 5/3/10 memo from G. Padick, Director of Planning; a 4/29/10 memo from D. Edens of 24 Birchwood Heights Road; a 5/3/10 email from C. Pellegrine; and a 5/3/10 memo from D. O'Brien, Mansfield Town Attorney. In addition to those communications, Padick noted the draft revisions had also been referred to appropriate staff, WINCOG Regional Planning Agency, Mansfield's Public Notice Registry and abutting towns.

Padick summarized each proposal and discussed the reasoning behind the changes and the intended results if approved.

Favretti noted no comments from the PZC and opened the floor for public comment regarding the definition of family and boarding house.

Jake Friedman requested the PZC take into consideration the impact on housing if the number of persons per household is limited.

Betty Wassmundt questioned if the non-conforming status would go with the land or the owner; if the PZC considered a situation in which the majority of the homes in a neighborhood are non-conforming with four un-related persons and a new house is used as a rental with 3 un-related people, will the new house be worth less because it is limited to three un-related; if thought had been given to encouraging neighborhood associations; and if the State of Connecticut defined family. Padick answered that the non-conforming status goes with the land, and Connecticut does not define family.

David Freudman felt this was a "broad brush approach" and thought it was not the right of the Town to define family; he felt that as houses age it may be more beneficial to convert them to rental properties and this would limit that use; consideration should be given to the number who can live in smaller versus larger homes; he was troubled by Town employees going around observing how many cars are in driveways of student rentals. It appears that the Town is "targeting" students.

Mike Sikoski agreed with the previous speakers and noted that it isn't troublesome having students as neighbors, it's having troublesome students as neighbors that is the problem. He felt that enforcement was an

issue and noted that if the current regulations were hard to enforce now, this new regulation won't make it any easier.

Joan Hall, who owns and rents properties in Mansfield, felt that the proposed changes in some ways are more generous because the definition of family is expanded. She had no opposition to the definition change from four to three un-related persons.

Favretti noted there were no more comments regarding the definition of family and boarding house, and he opened the floor for public comment regarding political signs.

Cynara Stites thanked the PZC for the proposed change and noted that as the President of the Northeast Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union she found the revised regulations to be acceptable.

David Morse agreed with Stites comments.

Noting no further comments or questions from the Commission or public, Plante MOVED, Holt seconded, to continue the Public Hearing until June 7th. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Hearing:

Special Permit Application, Permanent Agricultural Retail Sales, 483 Browns Road, o/a B. Kielbania, File #1292

Chairman Favretti opened the continued Public Hearing at 8:22 p.m. Members present were R. Favretti, M. Beal, J. Goodwin, R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan and alternates F. Loxsom, K. Rawn. Padick noted the following communications received and distributed since the 4/19/10 Public Hearing: a 4/28/10 memo from G. Meitzler, Assistant Town Engineer; a 4/29/10 memo from G. Padick, Director of Planning; and a 4/29/10 memo from G. Havens, E.H.H.D.

The applicant's representative, Wes Wentworth, P.E., Soil Scientist, Wentworth Civil Engineers, LLC, presented a 4/19/10 letter from J. Dipple, Director of the Farmland Preservation Program from the CT Department of Agriculture which outlined the proposal and stated that the farm stand expansion, green houses, and various barn expansions are acceptable uses.

Pociask questioned if any changes will be made for a handicap pathway, noting a 10% grade, and asked about additional lighting around the barn. Wentworth noted that the grade can be lessened when creating the pathway which will be built with D.O.T. standard stone-dust. At this time no additional lighting has been proposed.

Holt questioned if the applicant would be willing to eliminate the corn maze and agree to no outdoor amplification of music.

Attorney April Teveris, representing the applicant, indicated that Mr. Kielbania would be willing to withdraw the portion of his application that includes the corn maze at the site, but would like to reserve the right to come back to the Commission in the future should he want to revisit that part of the project.

Loxsom expressed concern about the traffic entering and leaving the site and if the precautionary signs would be enough to help the safety of travelers in that area. He asked Padick if speed humps near the area would be helpful. Padick responded that the Traffic Authority would not consider speed humps on a Collector Road such as Browns Road.

Favretti noted no comments from the PZC and no comments from the public.

Attorney April Teveris summarized the proposal stating that Mr. Kielbania is planning to bring a quality product to our community. She also noted that the applicant has tried to contact and work out concerns with the Loukas family with no resolution at this time.

Gus Loukas, the abutting property-owner, expressed that he was not opposed to the proposal, but was just

O'Brien and Johnson

Attorneys at Law

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May 3, 2010

Attorney Susan Johnson
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Planning & Zoning Commission
Town of Mansfield
Audrey P. Beck Building
Four South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268-2599

**Re: Proposed Amendments to the Zoning Regulations Article IV, Section B.25:
Definition of Family and Boarding House, Article X, Section C.h.4 Political Signs.
PZC File #907-31.**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As requested by Town of Mansfield Director of Planning Gregory Padick, I have completed my review of the **Proposed Amendments to the Zoning Regulations: PZC file #907-31.**

I met and consulted with Greg Padick as he was working on the development of these regulations during the past few years. As Greg requested in his April 9, 2009 letter to me, I have reviewed the pertinent definition of family cases, particularly **Dinan v. Board of Appeals of Stratford**, 220 Conn. 61 (1991), and **Village of Belle Terre v. Borass**, 416 U.S. 1 (1974) and their successor cases, and I have determined that the foregoing legal precedents are still the leading cases in the state and federal courts, respectively.

Otherwise, the question for me as town counsel is not whether all of the proposed amendments are advisable, but whether they are legal. It is my responsibility to say whether the proposed amendments are within the purview of the Commission's authority under our constitutions and laws, especially Connecticut General Statutes section 8-2, the statute which expressly authorizes the PZC to adopt regulations controlling the zoning of land, but only to the extent set forth in that particular law.

For a thorough summary of the proposed amendments, reference is made to the memorandum of Greg Padick to the PZC dated April 29, 2010. As to the elements of the definition of family and boarding house regulations that would reduce the number of unrelated adult individuals who would automatically qualify as a "family," suffice it to say as Greg notes that to some extent the amendments are intended to reduce "neighborhood impacts including excessive noise, partying during late night/early morning hours, frequent emergency service visitations, trespassing, parking on lawns and unsafe areas and poor property maintenance" in single family home zones, thereby promoting the "public's health, safety and welfare."

Planning & Zoning Commission
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In **Dinan v. Board of Appeals of Stratford**, supra, 220 Conn. 74-75, our Connecticut Supreme Court noted that: "We agree with **Belle Terre** that the police [zoning] power may be used constitutionally to promote "family values" and "youth values" that contribute to creating 'a sanctuary for people.'"

In "**It's All in the Family**," a 2008 Connecticut Planning article included in the PZC packet for this evening's meeting, Atty. Mark Branse has noted that:

Case law has long upheld both the restriction of dwellings to a single "family" and the restriction of the numbers of unrelated persons who can constitute a "family." In **Belle Terre v. Borass**, 416 U.S. 1 (1974), the United States Supreme Court upheld a zoning regulation that restricted a "family" to persons related by blood, marriage or adoption and no more than two persons not so related. The Connecticut Supreme Court issued a similar ruling in **Dinan v. Board of Zoning Appeals of Stratford**, 220 Conn. 61 (1991).

As noted above, I have reviewed the case law and determined that **Belle Terre** and **Dinan** are still the leading cases in this area of law in Connecticut. As Attorney Branse has set forth in his article, there have been some Connecticut legislative changes that have occurred since **Belle Terre** and **Dinan** were determined, e.g., civil unions; these changes are honored in the draft regulations.

Also as to the definition of family, as noted on page 2 of the Branse article, the federal Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act require treatment as a "family" of certain qualified "disabled persons," including those with disabilities resulting from drug or alcohol addiction. I have worked with Greg Padick to develop a set of "reasonable accommodation" regulations which are included in the proposed definition of family as category five per Greg's April 29, 2010 memo to the PZC. The "reasonable accommodation" draft is substantially based on federal law as interpreted by the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut in **Tsombanides v. City of West Haven**, 129 F.Supp. 2d 136 (D. Conn. 2001) and related case decisions in that matter.

Finally as to the proposed definition of family, in the **Dinan** case, the Connecticut Supreme Court concluded at 220 Conn. 75, that "C.G.S. section 8-2 permits the consideration of all factors relevant to the quality of living when classifying the uses to be permitted in various zones." My review of the zoning law of the State of Connecticut has revealed no legislative provision or case directly on point that provides or holds that any condition or requirement like those proposed in these proposed definition of family or boarding house amendments is beyond the scope of the statutory mandate or unconstitutional.

Planning & Zoning Commission
Town of Mansfield
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May 3, 2010

As a footnote to the foregoing, apparently in the interests of diminishing "neighborhood impacts," the subject proposal further limits the number of unrelated persons that may reside together in a single family zone. As Greg Padick has written in his April 29, 2010 memo to the PZC, "Category three authorizes up to three (3) unrelated individuals, which is a decrease from the current provision which is interpreted to allow up to four (4) unrelated individuals to automatically qualify as a family."

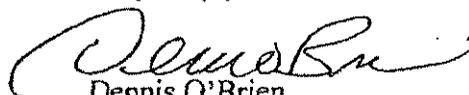
It is important to note that the proposed amendments to our regulations do not go as far as federal law in the form of the **Belle Terre** case would seem to permit. The Belle Terre ordinance that was upheld by the United States Supreme Court provided that: "A number of persons but not exceeding two (2) living and cooking together as a single housekeeping unit though not related by blood, adoption, or marriage shall be deemed to constitute a family." See, **Village of Belle Terre v. Borass, supra**, at 416 U.S. 1.

Turning to the proposed political sign amendments, as noted by Greg, again in his memo to the PZC, these changes were prompted to some extent by my response after careful review to concerns expressed by the ACLU of Connecticut. Together, town staff and officials have concluded that existing standards for political signs on private property should be eliminated, except for recommendations designed to help reduce neighborhood impact and potential litter problems and generally protect health and safety by, for example, maintaining sufficient sight lines to help ensure vehicular and pedestrian traffic safety. It is also noted that the proposed regulation retains an existing prohibition of political signs on town property except for portions of a street right-of-way abutting private property. Based on the provisions of C.G.S. section 8-2, municipal property is subject to zoning regulations unless specifically exempted by the town's legislative body. This has not occurred in the Town of Mansfield.

After careful review, my opinion is that the PZC has the legal authority to enact and to implement the subject draft amendments to the Town of Mansfield Zoning Regulations.

Please contact me if there are any questions that arise, now or during the public hearing process.

Very truly yours,


Dennis O'Brien
Attorney at Law

cc: Gregory Padick

From: Richard Pellegrine [rpellegrine@snet.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 8:21 PM
To: PlanZoneDept
Subject: Public Hearing May 3, 2010
To: Planning & Zoning Commission
From: Carol Pellegrine rpellegrine@snet.net
Date: April 29, 2010
RE: Draft Zoning Regs: Definition of Family and Political Signs

Due to a prior commitment, I am unable to attend your Public Hearing on May 3, 2010 regarding these proposed regulations but wish to share with you my thoughts regarding them.

Going first to the Political signs proposed "provision" your first paragraph appears to be suitable except for the use of the word "authorized" in two sentences. The PZ&C is not able to "authorize" anything regarding political signs on private property according to the ACLU, therefore I would suggest the use of the word "allowed" or "permitted" in the place of authorized.

In the second paragraph I would urge you to only include the first sentence, making it clear that political signs are not allowable on public property. I do not think you should include the last sentence, your "recommendations," since that is not what regulations do – either it is required or it is not.

When we get to the "Family" definition, I worry that we haven't perhaps gone too far in trying to cover all the bases and provided opportunities for "other specific incidences" that have not been thought out yet. For example, in #1 it refers to persons only having one of the relationships, but maybe we could have a sister who is also an aunt – does that eliminate the person from the family? (It is more than one!)

Then we get to number 4, the last statement says, "the following criteria shall be met"- does that mean that all or just one of the 6 criteria?

Looking at some of this "criteria" such words as "permanent and stable" are used but there is no definition of permanent and stable. Does that mean that the group will be together for ten years or ten days? (C) In subset 4 under C we have the words "household" and "unit," with no definition of what those terms mean. This whole statement however implies that as long as they have been living together, regardless of whether they qualify as a family, they can continue to do so. Why have all these criteria then? In subset 6 in C we use the terms "transient and temporary" with not indication of what they mean.

Then we come to Pandora's Box, item D - "Any other factors related to whether or not the group is the functional equivalent of a family." Like What? This opens the door to any number of situations that we have not thought up yet.

Under Item 5 you offer 6 criteria for allowing, basically Group Homes, but you do not say that the criteria must all be met, only that the most important is certification from the Dept. of Mental Health. If that is not met, can the other criteria allow this provision? (Here again the words "frequent," and "shared food," leave a vagueness that allows a way to get around things.)

I am not certain I have a solution of what your family definition should say, but I would caution the Commission to be cognizant of the possible loopholes that perhaps too much definition provides. I would hope that there be no "Grandfather clause" to this definition because we will never be able to regulate what is happening here in town without clear words saying just what makes a residential home a home for a family, not a rental unit.

Thank you for your consideration. If I can help clarify my statements, I would be happy to discuss them with the members.

Carol Pellegrine
8604299598

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council, Planning & Zoning Commission and Quality of Life Committee, Town of Mansfield

FROM: David G. Edens, 24 Birchwood Heights Road, Storrs DGE

DATE: April 29, 2010

SUBJECT: The Half-Mile Radius Rule

The purpose of this memorandum is to call your attention to the advantages a policy based on the subject rule would provide. For your convenience I quote from the last item in my March 17 memorandum to the Town Council and the Quality of Life Committee:

"...On a town map pick an existing student rental property and from the center of that property mark with a compass a half-mile radius and draw a circle. The rule would mean that no additional student rental could be permitted within the resulting circle. The result would be wide but thinly spread student renting. Concentrated student neighborhoods, as on Hunting Lodge Road, would be avoided. If not applied retroactively, the status quo could be maintained but future concentration would be avoided...."

By accepting the *status quo* in terms of number of unrelated occupants, the landlords could be mollified. The reduction of the number of authorized unrelated occupants per household from four to three, as is now being considered, would have a limited impact on the growth of "party houses", while it would have major negative impact on the landlords' income. Reducing the allowed number of unrelated occupants from four to three may not be cost-effective, i.e. social costs may exceed social benefits.

Another advantage of a spacing rule is its simplicity - it could be accomplished by zoning regulation. At the present time a minimum distance of 1,000 feet is required between the permitted premises of all stores involved in selling alcoholic beverages.¹ In principle, if a 1,000-foot spacing requirement is applied to package stores, why not a 2,640-foot requirement for student occupied housing? If 2,640 is too cumbersome a number, just round it off to 2,500 feet. This would approximate the half-mile rule and accomplish its purposes well enough.

Finally, in a letter to Gregory Padick, Director of Planning, the Town Attorney, Dennis O'Brien, rendered an opinion that the Poughkeepsie, New York approach for defining "family" and treating students as a separate land use class is legally defensible in the State of Connecticut.² If the criteria used to define the term "student" were made explicit and students were treated as a separate land use class in Connecticut zoning law, a simple spacing rule for student housing in residential areas could be implemented, thus providing some protection against the degradation residential neighborhoods that otherwise will occur, while meeting the needs of students and the ambitions of landlords as well.

The purpose of zoning regulations is to balance the conflicting rights of different classes of land use. The half-mile radius rule would do just that.

1 Zoning Regulations, Article 10, Section I

2 O'Brien, Dennis to Padick, Gregory, "Community Quality of Life Committee Initiatives", 10/01/2009

PAGE
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**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *MH*
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works; Cherie Trahan, Director of Finance
Date: May 24, 2010
Re: WPCA, Four Corners Water/Sewer Project Design

Subject Matter/Background

The Finance Committee has recommended that the proposed bond funding for the Four-Corners water/sewer project be submitted to the voters for approval at a special town meeting. State statute requires a public hearing prior to the issuance of bond funds for the sewer components of the project. In order to conduct the special town meeting during the 2009-10 fiscal year, the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) should conduct this hearing at the Council's June 14, 2010 meeting so that the special town meeting can be held on June 28, 2010.

The Four-Corners water/sewer project is described in the attached four-page information summary.

Financial Impact

While the requested bond funds would be used to complete the design of the water and sewer systems, additional funds to actually construct these systems would be required once the design and permitting is complete (one to two years). The Four-Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee anticipates that project construction costs would range from \$10 to \$16 million. The committee expects that a good portion of these costs would be covered by sewer and water assessments, grants and low-interest loans, leaving a balance of approximately \$3 million in additional local bonding needed to complete the construction financing. Preliminary financial estimates indicate that these bond funds would be more than offset by the increase in property taxes from the development/redevelopment in this area. Once the sewer and water systems are built, the Town would operate the systems as a utility, with the user charges paying for all operation and maintenance costs.

Legal Review

The Town's bond attorney has outlined the procedures and resolutions to be taken by the Council, the Town Clerk and the voters at the special town meeting. The first of these – the resolution to conduct the public hearing – is provided below.

Recommendation

Council, acting as the Mansfield Water Pollution Control Authority, is respectfully requested enact the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON THE DESIGN OF THE PROPOSED FOUR CORNERS AREA SEWER SYSTEM.

RESOLVED, That Town Council of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, acting in its capacity as the Town's Water Pollution Control Authority, hold a public hearing at The Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, 4 South Eagleville Road, in the Town of Mansfield, on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 7:30 PM to consider the advisability of the design of the proposed Four Corners area sewer system, which public hearing the Town Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to call.

Attachments

- 1) Four Corners Water and Sewer Project Information Summary, April 2010

**Town of Mansfield – Four-Corners Water and Sewer Project
Information Summary
April 2010**

Introduction and Project Scope

The Four Corners Water and Sewer Project encompasses a 500-acre area surrounding and extending north and west of the intersection of Routes 195 and 44 in northern Mansfield. This area has ground water contamination that has been monitored by the Connecticut DEP for the past 20 years caused by a number of different leaks from gasoline stations as well as from failing septic systems. While these have been addressed, there is a continuing need to provide adequate clean drinking water and safe sewage disposal to this area that is limited by environmental constraints including a high groundwater table, inland wetlands and soils unsuitable for long-term use of on-site septic disposal systems.

The Town is proposing to develop public water and sewer systems for approximately 60 parcels in this area. Remediation of the environmental issues noted above requires a public sewer system while a public water source is needed to support sustainable redevelopment/development options that will increase the town's tax base and help eliminate blight in the area.

This area is important to Mansfield for several reasons. Four Corners is the primary "gateway" to Mansfield and the University of Connecticut. The Mansfield Plan of Conservation and Development identifies the Four Corners area as desirable for mixed higher density use. There has been a progressive deterioration of many buildings and landscapes in the area leading to a serious blighted appearance.

The Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee is assisting the Town Council and Town staff with evaluation of sewer and water options, financing options and dissemination of information to the public.

Sewers

The facilities plan completed in 2008 found many properties' sewage disposal systems were limited by bad soils and a high water table. Several properties have use restrictions placed upon them by the local health district. Septic system failures and expensive repairs have been frequent. The study concluded that the most cost-effective solution to the wastewater problems of the area is public sewers with the sewage collected in pipes and pumped up to the UConn wastewater collection system. The State legislature approved this plan in 2009. The Town Engineering Staff is currently designing the proposed sewer and water lines for the area. The University's sewage treatment plant has the capacity to accommodate this additional sewage.

Water

It was determined that without a public drinking water supply, the development/redevelopment of this area would not be sustainable. Obtaining water for the area is still being examined, with studies needed to determine the best source. At this time three potential sources for water have been identified including:

- 1) On-site water resources from the Cedar Swamp area via a new well & pumping station
- 2) A new well-field near the Willimantic River (wheeled or routed through the existing UConn water system) and,
- 3) A pipeline from the CT Water Company from Tolland to Mansfield (some 3.4 miles along Rtes 32, 195, Baxter Road and Rte 44)

At this point in time the University cannot commit to providing drinking water to the Four Corners area, without an additional source of water supply, such as a new well field.

The study, testing and permitting of water supply options has to be done in 3 phases with a projected cost of \$200,000. The three water supply alternatives will be evaluated and compared in the first phase. After one alternative is selected at the completion of the 1st phase, the 2nd (borings and further study) and 3rd phases (full testing and permitting) can then proceed. It is anticipated that this 3 phase project will take 18 months.

Economic Development

A preliminary fiscal impact analysis identified fifteen of the 60 properties that were most likely to develop/redevelop after public sewer and water systems are constructed. After the demand for additional Town services was deducted, this analysis projected a net \$4M in additional tax revenue to the Town over the next 20 years. These results project the potential for expanding the tax base in Mansfield. Properties that are vacant and blighted will be able to be redeveloped into something useful and attractive. The Advisory Committee is also recommending design guidelines to the Planning and Zoning Commission for managing new development in this service district.

Proposed Project Costs and Financing

The preliminary cost estimates for the water and sewer systems, including a sewage pump station and a water supply source, total approximately \$10.1M. The projected cost of the sewers is \$5.1M including the pipelines within the district and the pump station. The preliminary cost for the water system is estimated to be \$5M if water can be obtained locally or from the Willimantic River. This includes \$2M for the wells and \$3M for distribution piping.

Normally, when a municipality provides sewer and water to an area, it assesses the benefits to the affected properties, because of the increased value of those properties. Town studies have shown that to make these special assessments affordable to the 60 property owners, sewer assessments will bring in a maximum of \$3.1M and water assessments about \$1M, totaling \$4.1 M of the \$10.1M needed. To fund the additional \$6M, the Town is proposing to obtain grants totaling about \$3M and \$3M from a future local bond issue. Low cost loans through the state's clean water revolving fund may also be available for some of the project costs. The Town is participating actively in current grant funding proposals at the State and National levels.

Bond funds are being sought in the Town's 2010-2011 capital budget to design the sewage pump station (\$100,000), study and obtain permits for the water supply source (\$200,000) and provide for additional design consultants and the cost of bonding (\$30,000). This \$330,000 will provide the funds needed to complete the design of both the water and sewer components for the Four Corners area within the next 12-24 months. The project should be "shovel ready" for construction

upon the funding and completion of the proposed design phase. This will make Mansfield much more competitive for federal and state grant funding as well as provide the incentive for investment in development and redevelopment of the Four Corners area.

Coordination Issues

Town Staff and the Advisory Committee have taken steps to coordinate this project with the Storrs Center development, the University of Connecticut and the Windham Region's (WINCOG) economic development initiatives. The staff and the Advisory Committee have met with University Officials who continue to remain interested in this project, but are unable to commit to supplying this area with water at this time. However, interconnection with the UConn water system remains a likely possibility even if the Town obtains its own (new) water source.

Where we are today

\$330,000 in bond funds are being requested in the Town's 2010-11 capital budget to complete the design of the sewer and water systems and finish the study and permitting for obtaining water for the area. This effort necessitates the hiring of consultants who are experts in the field of wastewater pumping and water supply permitting. One or two years will be needed to complete all of the design and permitting work.

Additional Information

Additional information, including the complete sewer facilities plan, can be found on the Town's website (<http://www.MansfieldCT.org>). Click on the "Economic & Community Development" right sidebar; then on the "current projects" sidebar. You may also contact Lon Hultgren (860-429-3332 – HultgrenLR@MansfieldCT.org), the Town's Director of Public Works.

Mansfield Four-Corners Advisory Committee Members:

Gene Nesbitt, Chair	Mike Pacholski, UConn Facilities
Carl Schaefer, Town Council	Tim Tussing, UConn Facilities
Chris Paulhus, Town Council	Ken Rawn
Matt Hart, Town Manager	Lee Girard
Peter Plante, Planning & Zoning Commission	Meg Reich
Pat Ferrigno	Phil Spak, Mansfield Downtown Partnership

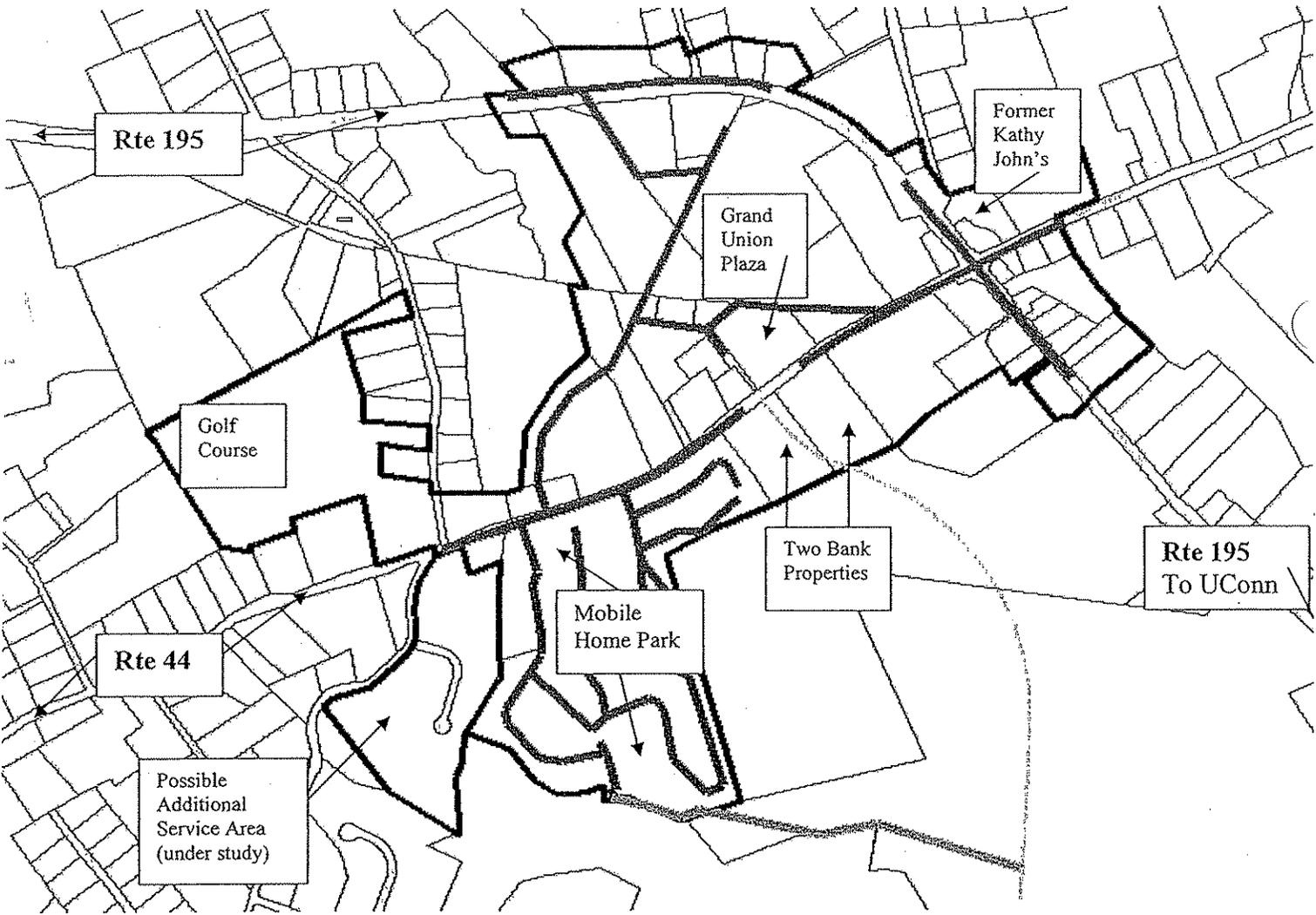
Proposed Four Corners Sewer (and Water) Service Area

(Outer black line = preliminary service area boundary)

(Inner red lines = approximate sewer lines)

(Blue line near bottom = force main from pump station to UConn collection system)

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North





**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *MvH*
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Ethics Board
Date: May 24, 2010
Re: Revisions to Ethics Ordinance

Subject Matter/Background

Beginning in late 2008 and during 2009 the Ethics Board reviewed and discussed potential revisions to our Ethics Ordinance, which has not been updated since its original adoption in 1995. Upon receipt of the Ethics Board's submission, the Town Council referred and tasked the Personnel Committee with the review of the board's recommendations. On January 7, 2010 the Personnel Committee and the Ethics Board held a joint meeting to discuss the board's recommended revisions to the Ethics Code. Since that time, the Personnel Committee has been discussing the recommendations as presented. The Personnel Committee would like the Town Attorney to review the recommended revisions, along with the Personnel Committee's comments, and prepare a draft revised ordinance for the Council's consideration. Prior to the Personnel Committee engaging the Town Attorney in this effort, the committee would like the Council as a whole to comment on any suggested changes or areas of concern.

Outside of formatting and organization of the document, the Personnel Committee has noted the following areas for further discussion:

- 25-3F – The definition of “financial sense” is clear, but “personal sense” is not. What would be an example of an indirect or direct personal benefit that is not also a financial benefit? Is “personal sense” needed?
- 25-3H – Many Council members and elected officials are current or retired employees of the State of Connecticut, including the University of Connecticut. When would recusal be appropriate? How far removed from the policy makers of an agency does an employee or retiree need to be in order to vote on an issue? Public v. personal gain.
- 25-4B(3) – How do appearances differ from representation? What purpose do they each serve?
- 25-4C(3) – Should there be a life events exception?
- 25-4C(4) – Should the emphasis be on financial transactions? Charitable activities should be separated from this section.
- 25-4C(6) – Annual disclosure should not include political candidates or political party committee officers.
- 25-4C(6)(a)(iv) (third paragraph) – What should be the threshold for disclosure for shareholders, etc? To what extent is disclosure appropriate as defined in 25-4C(6)(a)(iv) third paragraph?

Recommendation

As part of its review process of the Ethics Code, the Personnel Committee wishes to obtain feedback from the Council as a whole. After the Committee has completed its work with the Town Attorney, it will bring its recommendations back to the Town Council for review and consideration. No formal action is required from the Council at this time.

Attachments

- 1) Personnel Committee Remarks to Ethics Board Recommendations
- 2) Ethics Board Recommended Revisions to the Code, dated 1/7/10
- 3) Minutes of 1/7/10 Joint Ethics Board and Personnel Committee Meeting

As of 4/12/10 the following are the Personnel Committee's remarks to the Ethics Board recommendations:

- 25-3C – Numbers 1-7 within definition should be moved to 25-4C.(consensus)
- 25-4 – Lettering should be re-formatted so the introductory paragraph becomes Section "A." (consensus)
- 25-4B(2) – Sentence 1 and 2 conflict with Sentence 3. (flagged, consensus).
- 25-4B(3) – How do appearances differ from representation? What purpose do they each serve? Should be clarified. (flagged)
- 25-4B(4) – Second sentence should be removed from 25-4B(4) and be the new 25-4B(5) and labeled "political activity." (consensus)
- 25-4C(3) – Should there be a life events exception? (flagged)
- 25-4C(4) – Should the emphasis be on financial transactions? Charitable activities should be separated from this section. (flagged, consensus).
- 25-4C(5) – Deals with representation, which is also addressed in 25-4C(2); should be moved to same section (consensus).
- 25-4C(6) – annual disclosure should not include political candidates or political party committee officers (consensus). Third paragraph – language should be tightened (flagged).
- 25-4C(6)aiv (third paragraph)– What should be the threshold for disclosure for shareholders, etc? To what extent is disclosure appropriate as defined in 25-4C(6)aiv third paragraph? (Flagged)
- 25-4C(6)bii – insert "by its body" after "himself" and before "or." (Consensus)
- 25-4C(6)bii – can a board require recusal of its members? Refer to Town Attorney. (Flagged)
- 25-4C(9) – Change private employment to outside employment. (Consensus)
- 25-4C(10) – Change post-employment employment to post-service employment. (Consensus)
- 25-4D – are the whistleblower provisions consistent with statute and Town policies? (Flagged)
- 25-6C – move 25-6C to 25-5. Also, add the words "and then submitted to the Council for review and consideration" to the end of the sentence. (Consensus)
- 25-7A – if advisory opinions are to be binding, they should be in writing. (Consensus)
- 25-7A & B – the appeal process for advisory opinions and complaints should be specified more clearly. The Committee has asked Ms. Capriola to research the Board's procedures and Connecticut General Statutes to clarify. (Flagged)
- 25-7B – Eliminate the sentence "the Board itself may also initiate such complaints." The Committee feels it would be more appropriate for an individual member of the Board to initiate a complaint as an individual; then the initiating Board member should recuse himself/herself from the complaint proceedings since the Board has alternate members available. (Consensus)
 - Have Town Attorney determine whether the Ethics Board has subpoena power per Connecticut General Statutes.
- 25-7E – An exemption for seasonal and/or nonregular employees could be added to the waiver provisions. (Consensus)
- 25-7E(1) – Eliminate the word "compelling" and replace the word "exceptional" with "unusual."
- 25-8 – rephrase words to ..."scrupulously avoid invading..." (Consensus)

The following are the Ethics Board's recommended revisions to the Ethics Code¹ as of January 7, 2010. These recommendations should replace any previous recommended changes submitted to the Town Council and the Personnel Committee by the Board.

Recommended Changes

- Strikethrough = recommended deletions reached by consensus or majority of members
- Bold/Italics = recommended revisions by consensus or majority of members

Chapter 25 of the Mansfield Code – Ethics Ordinance

§ 25-1. Title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Code of Ethics."

§ 25-2. Purpose.

- A. The purpose of these standards is to guide Town officials, elected and appointed, Town employees and citizens by establishing standards of conduct. ~~for persons in the decisionmaking process.~~ It is intended to strengthen the tradition of **good** government in the Town.
- B. Good government depends on decisions which are based upon the merits of the issue and are in the best interests of the Town as a whole, without regard to personal gain.
- C. In pursuit of that goal, these standards are provided to aid those involved in decisionmaking to act in accordance with the public interest, use objective judgment, assure accountability, provide *democratic leadership* and uphold the respectability of the government.

§ 25-3. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following words or phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

- A. **APPEAR**— *Any form of communication including: in person, through another person, by letter, by telephone or by electronic media.*
- B. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** — ~~Any information concerning the property, business or affairs of the Town not generally available to the public. *not discloseable under or subject to FOI rules (chapter 14, § 1-210 C.G.S.) Any information, whether transmitted orally or in writing, which is obtained by reason of the public position or office held and is of such a nature that it is not, at the time of transmission, a matter of public record or public knowledge as defined by Chapter 14, § 1-210 C.G.S.*~~
- C. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST** - *An official or employee's use of his/her position may not result in a financial benefit not shared with a substantial segment of the Town's population for any of the following:*

¹ At its January 7, 2010 meeting of the Ethics Board Ms. Stevens made a motion that, "Proposed revisions as amended be sent to the Personnel Committee and to note in the forwarding copy that the Board chose not to address outside employer under definitions and annual disclosure statement by candidates for public office." The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. With no objections, the motion passed with all in favor.

- (1) *himself or herself;*
- (2) *a member of his or her immediate family;*
- (3) *an outside employer/business of his or hers, or of a member of his or her immediate family;*
- (4) *a customer or client;*
- (5) *person or entity from whom the official has received an election campaign contribution totaling more than \$200 in the aggregate during the past election cycle (this amount includes contributions from a person's immediate family or business);*
- (6) *a substantial debtor or creditor of his or hers, or of members of his or her household; or*
- (7) *a nongovernmental civic group, union, social, charitable, or religious organization of which he or she (or a member of his or her immediate family) is an officer or director.*

D. EMPLOYEE — Any person receiving a salary, wages or compensation from the Town for services rendered.

E. IMMEDIATE FAMILY — Any parent, brother, sister, child spouse or co-habiting partner of an individual. ~~as well as~~ The parent, brother, sister or child of said spouse or co-habiting partner. ~~and~~ **Also**, the spouse or co-habiting partner of any such child or any dependent relative who resides in said individual's household.

F. INTEREST IN A PERSONAL OR FINANCIAL SENSE — *A relationship in which a direct or indirect financial benefit might be received. "Financial benefit" includes: money, service, entertainment, or any promise of these or anything else of value. This term does not include campaign contributions authorized by law.*

For the purpose of this Code, the same meaning as the courts of this state apply, from time to time, to the same phrase as used in §§ 8-11 and 8-21, C.G.S. 2.

G. OFFICIAL — Any person holding elective or appointive Town office, paid or unpaid, including members and alternate members of Town agencies, boards and commissions, and committees appointed to oversee the construction or improvement of Town facilities, or any other board, commission or agency that perform legislative or judicial functions or exercise financial authority (collectively hereinafter referred to as "body"). *An official does not mean a member of an advisory board if, but only if, the advisory board has no authority to implement its recommendations or to act on behalf of the Town or to restrict the authority of the Town to act.*

H. OUTSIDE EMPLOYER OR BUSINESS—*This term includes: any substantial business activity other than service to the Town; any entity of which the official/employee is a member, official, or employee, and from which he or she receives compensation; any entity located in the Town or which does business with the Town, in which the official/employee has an ownership interest; and any entity to which the official or employee owes, or is owed, more than \$10,000. For purposes of this definition, "compensation" does not include reimbursement for expenses.*

- I. ***SUBORDINATE - Another official/employee whose activities an official or employee directs/supervises.***

§ 25-4. Guidelines established.

If an official or employee is speaking before a body as an elector during public comment, said person shall disclose their name, address, and public affiliation, regardless of whether the affiliation is indirect or direct to the matter in which the person is speaking.

- A. ***Use of Town assets. No official or employee shall use or permit the use of Town funds, services, property, equipment, owned or leased vehicles or materials for personal convenience or profit, except when such services are available to the public generally or are provided in conformance with established written Town policies for the use of such officials or employees. This applies not only to objects such as cars and trucks, but also to travel and other expense reimbursement requests.***

B. ***Fair and equal treatment.***

- (1) ***Special Consideration - No official or employee shall grant or accept any special consideration, treatment or advantage to or from any person beyond that which is available to every other person.***
- (2) ***Representation - An official/employee may not represent any other person or entity before the Town, nor appear in any matter not before the Town, but against the interests of the Town. However, it is acceptable for elected officials to represent constituents without compensation in matters of public advocacy. Volunteer members of established boards and commissions may represent persons and entities before, or appear before, any Town department, agency, board, or commission other than their own.***
- (3) ***Appearances - An official or employee may not appear before any Town department, agency, board or commission, except on his or her own behalf or on behalf of the Town. Every time an official or employee appears or when he or she writes a letter to the editor or other publicly distributed correspondence regarding the Town, he or she is required to disclose whether he or she is appearing in an official capacity or as a private citizen.***
- (4) ***Political Solicitation - An official/employee may not request, or authorize anyone else to request, that any subordinate participate in an election campaign or make a political contribution. Nor may he or she engage in any political activity while on duty for the Town, or with the use of Town funds, supplies, vehicles, or facilities.***
- (5) ***Patronage - No official or employee may use his or her influence to obtain an appointment of another person to any position as a reward for political activity or contribution.***
- (6) ***Nepotism - No official or employee may appoint or hire a member of his or her immediate family to any type of employment with the Town without first obtaining a waiver pursuant to 25-7E. No official or employee may supervise or be in a direct line of supervision of a member of his or her immediate family without obtaining a waiver pursuant to 25-7E.***

C. ***Conflict of interest.***

- (1) Disqualification in matters involving a personal or financial interest. No employee or official shall participate in the hearing or decision of the body of which he or she is a member upon any matter in which he or she is interested in a personal or financial sense. The fact of such disqualification shall be entered on the records of such body. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as to prevent any elected official or employee from submitting a competitive sealed bid in response to an invitation to bid from any body of the Town, provided that such person does not thereby violate Subsection C(2) of this section.
- (2) Disclosure of confidential information. No official or employee shall disclose or use any confidential information obtained in an official capacity for the purpose of advancing his or her financial or personal interest or that of others.
- (3) Gifts and favors. No official or employee or member of his or her immediate family shall solicit or accept any gift or gifts having a value of fifty dollars (\$50.) or more in value in any calendar year, whether in the form of service, loan, ~~thing~~ **object**, promise or any other ~~form~~ **consideration**, from any person or persons who to his or her knowledge is interested directly or indirectly in business dealings with the Town. This prohibition shall not apply to lawful political contributors as defined in § 9-333(b), C.G.S. ***Gifts of property, money, or services received by an official or employee and given nominally to the Town must be accepted by a resolution of the Council.***
- (4) Use of influence. No official or employee shall ~~solicit any business~~ **may engage in a financial transaction including charitable contributions**, directly or indirectly, from another official or employee **especially one** over whom he/she has any direct or indirect control or influence with respect to tenure, compensation or duties. ***Charitable events or fundraising activities subject to general sponsorship by the Town are exempted from this section.***
- (5) Representation of private or adverse interest. No official or employee shall appear on behalf of a private interest before any body of the Town, nor shall he or she represent an adverse interest in any litigation involving the Town.
- (6) Disclosure of interest. Any official or employee who has a personal or financial interest in any matter coming before any body of the Town shall make the same known to such body ~~in a timely manner~~ **immediately before any action.** ~~and~~ Such interest shall be disclosed on the records of such body.
 - a. ***Annual Disclosure. Elected officials, department heads and those authorized to act on their behalf (e.g., first deputies), candidates for elected office and political party committee officers are required to file annual disclosure statements. Annual disclosure statements (for the calendar year) are to be filed with the Ethics Board:***
 - i. ***Within one-hundred-and-twenty days after the effective date of this section;***
 - ii. ***Within thirty days after taking one of the job titles or positions listed in subsection a of this section; and***
 - iii. ***No later than May 15 of each year thereafter***
 - iv. ***Candidates for elected office, shall file the annual disclosure statement with their filing of the certificate of candidacy or declaration of intent and no later than May 15 of each year thereafter.***

The annual disclosure statement will include the location of any real estate in the Town, or within one mile of the boundary of the Town, in which the person disclosing, or his or her immediate family, has a financial interest, and the type of financial interest. This section does not apply to an official or employee's primary residence.

The disclosure statement will also include with respect to each outside employer or business of the person disclosing: its name (if any); the nature of its business or if it is an entity, the type of entity; the person disclosing's relationship to it, such as sole proprietor, owner, partner, official, director, member, employee, bondholder, or shareholder.

The disclosure statement will also include the names and addresses of all immediate family employed by the Town as employees, contractors, or consultants, including immediate family who work for or are subcontractors of contractors, consultants, or subcontractors.

Failure to disclose the information with respect to other immediate family members does not constitute a violation of that subsection if the person disclosing made a good faith effort to obtain the information.

b. *Recusal.*

i. *An official or employee must refrain from acting on or discussing a matter before the Town, if acting on the matter, or failing to act on the matter represents a conflict of interest. Such an official or employee should join the public if the recusal occurs at a public meeting, leave the room if it is not a public meeting, and file with the Town Clerk a signed statement disclosing the reasons for recusal, or state this information on the public record of that board or commission.*

ii. *If a board or agency member is requested to recuse himself or herself with respect to a matter because he or she has a conflict of interest, the member must decide whether to recuse himself or herself. If the member decides not to recuse himself or herself, the remaining must consider any relevant evidence concerning such claimed conflict of interest, as defined in this Code, and vote whether or not to allow the request and require that the member refrain from participating in the matter.*

iii. *Rule of Necessity. If recusal would leave a board with less than a quorum capable of acting, or if the official/employee is the only person authorized by law to act, the official/employee must disclose the nature and circumstances of the conflict to the Ethics Board and ask for an advisory opinion.*

(7) *First year after termination. No official or employee shall, during the first within one year after termination of his or her last date of service or employment with the Town, appear before any body of the Town or apply to any department in relation to any case, proceeding or application in which he or she personally participated during the period of his or her service or*

employment, or which was under his or her active consideration ~~official responsibility as a municipal employee.~~

- (8) *First Year of Employment.* No official or employee shall award a contract or participate in an action benefiting a person that formerly employed him or her within one year of entering Town employment or service.
- (9) *Private employment.* No official or employee shall engage in or accept private employment or render service that is incompatible with the proper discharge of his or her official duties or would tend to impair his or her independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties or give the appearance of impropriety, unless otherwise permitted by law.
- (10) *Post-Employment Employment.* Any official/employee shall not accept employment with a party to a contract with the Town, within a year after the contract was signed, when he or she participated substantially in the negotiation or award a contract of \$50,000 or more.
- (11) *Quid Pro Quo.* No official or employee shall discuss or accept an offer of future employment with any person doing or seeking to do business with the Town if the official or employee has reason to believe that the offer of employment is intended as reward for an action or failure to act.
- (12) *Fees and Honorariums.* No official or employee may accept a fee or honorarium for an article, appearance, or speech in his or her official capacity. He or she may receive payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to any such activity.
- (13) *Endorsements.* No official or employee in his or her official capacity may publicly endorse products or services; this does not prohibit an official or employee from answering inquiries by other governmental officials, consumer organizations, or product information services regarding products or services.

D. *Reporting Requirements and Whistleblower Provisions.*

- (1) *Complicity with or Knowledge of Others' Violations.* No one may encourage anyone to violate any provision of this Code. If an official/employee suspects that someone has violated this Code, he or she is required to report it to the relevant individual, either the employee's supervisor, appointing authority, or the Ethics Board. Anyone who reports a violation in good faith will be protected by the provisions of Section 25-4D(2).
- (2) *Whistle-Blower Protection.* Neither the Town nor any person, including officials and employees, may take or threaten to take official or personal action against any official, employee, or against any member of their family because that person, or a person acting on his or her behalf, (a) reports or files a complaint with the Ethics Board regarding an alleged violation of this Code, or (b) is requested by the Ethics Board to participate in an investigation, hearing, or inquiry of the Ethics Board. The provisions of this section are not applicable when the reporter of a violation knowingly made accusations or other statements that were malicious and false.

§ 25-5. Board of Ethics.

- A. There is hereby established a Board of Ethics consisting of five (5) members who

shall be electors of the Town. The members shall be appointed by the Town Council and shall serve for a term of three (3) years, ~~except that, of the initial Board, two (2) members shall serve for a term of two (2) years, and one (1) member for a term of one (1) year.~~

- B. Alternate members. In addition to the regular members, the Town Council shall appoint two (2) alternate members who shall serve in the absence of a regular member. ~~The initial appointments shall be for a term to expire on June 30, 1996. Thereafter, all **Alternate member** appointments shall be for two-year terms.~~
- C. No more than three (3) members and no more than one (1) alternate member shall be of the same political party at any time.
- D. ~~No member or alternate shall contemporaneously be an employee or official of the Town on any other board. **Members of the Board may also serve as members of advisory committees. Members of the Board should not simultaneously serve as a member of an elected board of the Town or be an employee of the Town.**~~

§ 25-6. Organization and procedure.

- A. ~~The Board of Ethics shall elect a **Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary annually. Rules and procedures shall be established. Confidentiality must be maintained in order to protect the privacy of public officials, employees and citizens, including the provisions of Sec 1-82(a)-(f) of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Board shall keep records of its meetings, planning to meet at least four times a year and at such other times as deemed necessary by any member.** Chairperson and a Secretary and shall establish its own rules and procedures, which shall be available to any elector of the Town through the Town Clerk's office. Rules and procedures shall be established within six (6) months of the initial appointment of all members and alternates. The need to maintain confidentiality in order to protect the privacy of public officials and employees and citizens [including the provisions of § 1-82a(a) through (f), C.G.S.] shall be considered when establishing the rules and procedures. The Board shall keep records of its meetings and shall hold meetings at the call of the Chairperson and at such other times as it may determine.~~
- B. **Practices regarding recordkeeping, release of documents, and notice of meetings will be consistent with Connecticut general statutes pertaining to freedom of information and ethics boards. The Town Clerk's Office must maintain on file for public inspection:**
 - (1) **A copy of the Code of ethics and amendments thereto;**
 - (2) **A statement that the Town has established an Ethics Board, and its members;**
 - (3) **A copy of the form of annual statement of financial disclosure;**
 - (4) **A list of the names and offices, or positions, of all officials and employees required to file annual disclosure statements;**
 - (5) **Copies of all annual disclosure statements filed pursuant to this Code.**
 - (6) **Other records of the Ethics Board subject to disclosure.**
- C. **The provisions of this Code will be reviewed and updated when necessary, but not less than every five years.**

§ 25-7. Powers and duties.

- A. **Advisory Opinions.** *Advisory opinions may be sought by an official, employee, or body of the Town regarding whether his, her, or its own action might violate a provision of this Code.* The Board may also issue guidelines on such **general ethics** issues as, ~~for example, ex parte communication.~~ Such opinions and guidelines, until amended or revoked, shall be binding on the Board and reliance upon them in good faith by any officer or employee in any action brought under the provisions of this chapter. Any request or opinion the disclosure of which invades the personal privacy [as that term is used in C.G.S. § 1-19(b)(2)] of any individual shall be kept confidential in a personnel or similar file and shall not be subject to public inspection or disclosure. The Board may make available to the public such advisory opinions which do not invade personal privacy. ~~and take other appropriate steps in an effort to increase public and officials' awareness of this Code of Ethics.~~
- B. **Complaints.** The Board shall establish procedures by which the public may initiate complaints alleging violations of this Code. The Board itself may also initiate such complaints. The Board shall have the power to hold hearings concerning the application of this Code and its violation and may administer oaths and compel attendance of witnesses by subpoena. Such hearings shall be closed to the public unless the respondent requests otherwise. If the Board determines the respondent has, in fact, violated the provisions of this Code, it shall file a memorandum of decision which may include a recommendation for action, with the Town Council or other appropriate body. The recommended action may include reprimand, public censure, termination or suspension of employment, removal or suspension from appointive office or termination of contractual status, except that no action may be recommended which would violate the provisions of the state or federal law. In the case of union employees, such recommended action does not constitute a unilateral change in conditions of employment. No such recommendation shall limit the authority of the Town Council under the Charter of the Town or under any ordinance, statute or any other law. Any discussion by the Town Council or other body of an individual affected by the memorandum of decision shall be in executive session, unless the individual affected requests that such discussion be held in open session.
- C. Any complaint received by the Board must be in writing and signed under oath by the individual making said complaint, under penalty of false statement (C.G.S. § 53a-157b).
- D. **Correspondence.** *The Board welcomes and encourages communications from the public regarding ethics issues relevant to this Code, even if they do not fall within the categories of an advisory opinion, or complaint. Communications will be handled on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Board. The Board will take appropriate steps in an effort to increase public and officials' awareness of this Code of Ethics.*
- E. **Waivers.** *If an official or employee comes into a direct line of supervision of a member of his or her household, he or she will have six months to obtain a waiver.*
- (1) *Upon written application and a showing of compelling need, at an open*

session after public notice, the Ethics Board may in exceptional circumstances grant a waiver of subsections 25-4B(6). Waiver applications should be submitted by the supervisor seeking the waiver.

- (2) *Waivers must be in writing and must state the grounds upon which they are granted. Within ten days after granting a waiver, the Ethics Board must publish a notice setting forth the name of the person or entity requesting the waiver and a general description of the nature of the waiver.*

§ 25-8. Annual report.

Each year, at a time to be determined by the Board, it shall prepare and submit to the Town Council an annual report of its actions during the preceding twelve (12) months and its recommendations, if any. Additional reports, opinions and recommendations may be submitted by the Board to the Town Council at any time. In all such submissions, the Board shall be scrupulous in **avoiding invading** ~~its avoidance of the undue invasion of~~ the personal privacy of any individual.

§ 25-9. Distribution of Code of Ethics, Training

- A. ***Distribution of Code.*** In order that all public officials and employees are aware of what constitutes ethical conduct in the operations of the government of the Town of Mansfield, ~~the Town Clerk~~ **appropriate officials** shall cause **make available** a copy of this Code of Ethics ~~to be distributed to each and every official and employee.~~
- B. ***Training and Education.*** *The Ethics Board will hold an annual workshop for new and current officials and employees to discuss this Code, its values and goals, its enforcement, and the ways in which it has affected their work and the working of the Town government.*

§ 25-10. Appeals.

A decision by the Board of Ethics may be appealed in the manner allowed by the Connecticut General Statutes.

§ 25-11. Severability; conflicts with other provisions.

If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance, or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this chapter. Furthermore, should any such provisions of this chapter conflict with any provisions of the Personnel Rules of the Town of Mansfield, the collective bargaining agreements of the Town of Mansfield or the Connecticut General Statutes, the relevant provisions of the Personnel Rules, collective bargaining agreements and/or the Connecticut General Statutes shall prevail.

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Joint Meeting of Ethics Board & Personnel Committee
Thursday, January 7, 2010
Audrey Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B
4:30pm

Minutes

As Adopted by the Personnel Committee at their 1/25/10 meeting

Ethics Board Members Present: Lena Barry, Nancy Cox (Chair), David Ferrero, Saul Nesselroth, Mike Sikoski, Win Smith, Nora Stevens

Personnel Committee Members Present: Gregg Haddad (Chair), Peter Kochenburger, Christopher Paulhus, Elizabeth Paterson (Mayor, ex-officio member)

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager

I. DISCUSSION OF ETHICS BOARD'S RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO ETHICS CODE

Members of the Personnel Committee made inquiries regarding the recommendations presented by the Ethics Board as follows:

- What was the basis, research for the recommended revisions (Kochenburger)?
 - Board responded that they reviewed model codes and reviewed the 2004 study conducted by Common Cause regarding ethics codes in Connecticut. The Personnel Committee requested Ms. Capriola to provide the Committee copies of the "model code," state work group municipal model code, and the 2004 study conducted by Common Cause.
- Should the Board adopt interpretive (gloss) commentary (Kochenburger)?
 - Board responded that the intent was to create a clean, simple document tailored to Mansfield's needs. An interpretive gloss is something that can be considered.
- Section 25-1 and 25-2 – no discussion.
- Section 25-3
 - 25-3E – Does the immediate family definition extend to a brother or sister whom does not reside with an official or employee (Haddad)? Would recommend making the definition into two sentences.
 - Board responded "yes."
 - 25-3C – Should "substantial segment" be defined (Kochenburger)?
 - Board responded by describing intent of language; public benefit v. direct personal benefit.
 - 25-3F – The definition of "financial sense" is clear, but "personal sense" is not. What would be an example of an indirect or direct personal benefit that is not also a financial benefit? Is "personal sense" needed (Haddad)?
 - Board responded that it had attended training after it had submitted its recommendations to the Personnel Committee. In that training, it was recommended that any reference to "personal sense" be removed from codes of ethics. No member was able to think of an example of an indirect or direct personal benefit that would not also fall under "financial sense."
 - 25-3G – The sentence on court officials can be removed since probate officials are state employees.

- 25-3H – Many council members and elected officials are current or retired employees of the State of Connecticut, including the University of Connecticut. What guidance can the Board give to council members and elected officials who are employed by the state? When would recusal be appropriate (Haddad)?
 - Board reviewed the proposed language on recusal. The Board can also issue an advisory opinion on this issue for clarification. Mr. Kochenburger stated that very few state employees can be considered to have an ownership interest in the state and perhaps that can be part of the discussion. Mr. Haddad requested Ms. Capriola to inquire with the State as to cases, guidelines, etc. they may have on similar matters.
- Section 25-4
 - 25-4A – Insert the word “requests” in last sentence (Kochenburger).
 - 25-4B(3) – Review of appearances. Last sentence needs to be reviewed to ensure that the first amendment is not violated (Haddad & Kochenburger).
 - Board responded that people are entitled to their free speech, but that officials need to distinguish between their private opinion as an individual v. the opinion of the body they serve with.
 - 25-4B(6) – Review of nepotism provisions (Paulhus).
 - Board provided overview of proposed language regarding nepotism and the waiver process.
 - 25-4B(4) – Clarification for political solicitation. Makes sense to extend to municipal employees, but not to elected officials or other officials (Haddad).
 - 25-4C(6)a – There should be high public grounds for requiring disclosure of officials and employees. Why candidates for political office? Why political party committee officers (Haddad)?
 - Board responded that this provision is meant to be proactive (to avoid potential issues) as opposed to reactive.
 - 25-4C(6)b – Should personal interest be replaced with conflict of interest in the recusal provision (Kochenburger)?
 - Conflict of interest should clearly address/define the ability of officials and employees to serve on multiple committees or boards.
- Sections 25-5, 25-6, 25-7, 25-8 – no discussion.
- Section 25-9A – add “employee” - to be last word in sentence.
- Next Steps:
 - Ethics Board to make further recommendations based on discussion at 1/7/10 joint meeting and submit to Personnel Committee
 - Personnel Committee takes over review of the Ethics Code; may seek consultation from the Board from time to time on particular issues.
 - After Personnel Committee and legal review, an endorsed version is submitted to the Council as a whole for review and consideration.

II. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Maria E. Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *MWH*
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works; Tim Veillette, Project Engineer
Date: May 24, 2010
Re: North Eagleville Road Sidewalk Project

Subject Matter/Background

Sidewalks on both South Eagleville Road and North Eagleville Road remain the Town's highest priority walkway projects that are yet to be funded. We are applying for a small cities program grant to fund the South Eagleville walk (from Separatist to Maple), and have worked out a cooperative funding arrangement with the University of Connecticut to design and build the walkway on North Eagleville Road from Hunting Lodge Road to Northwood Road. Under this arrangement, UConn will fund the design and construction and the Town will obtain the necessary permits and easements for the project.

As with any Town public improvement project costing over \$50,000, public notice of the abutters and a public hearing is required by Town ordinance. As the preliminary plans are now available, ask Council to schedule a public hearing at its next Council meeting (June 14, 2010). Following the public hearing, staff will obtain final plans and apply to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a wetlands permit. Council will also need to refer the project's final plans to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review under CGS §8-24.

Financial Impact

Over the past several years the Town has budgeted some funds for walkway projects in the capital fund (project # 83308 – Town Walkways/Transportation Enhancements). We estimate the cost of acquiring the easements (the cost of appraisals, legal and the easements themselves) will run under \$10,000, which is available in this capital budget line item. Once the walkway is built, it will add an additional 2,200 feet (.42 miles) of walkway to the Town's approximately five miles of existing maintained bike and pedestrian facilities. We estimate the additional cost of manpower and equipment necessary to plow, sand, sweep and perform other maintenance to this .42 miles of walkway will not exceed \$1,000 per year.

Legal Review

Our attorney for these acquisitions is Dennis Poitras (he completed the acquisitions for the last few of our walkway projects). He will work with us on these acquisitions and will handle the closings.

Recommendation

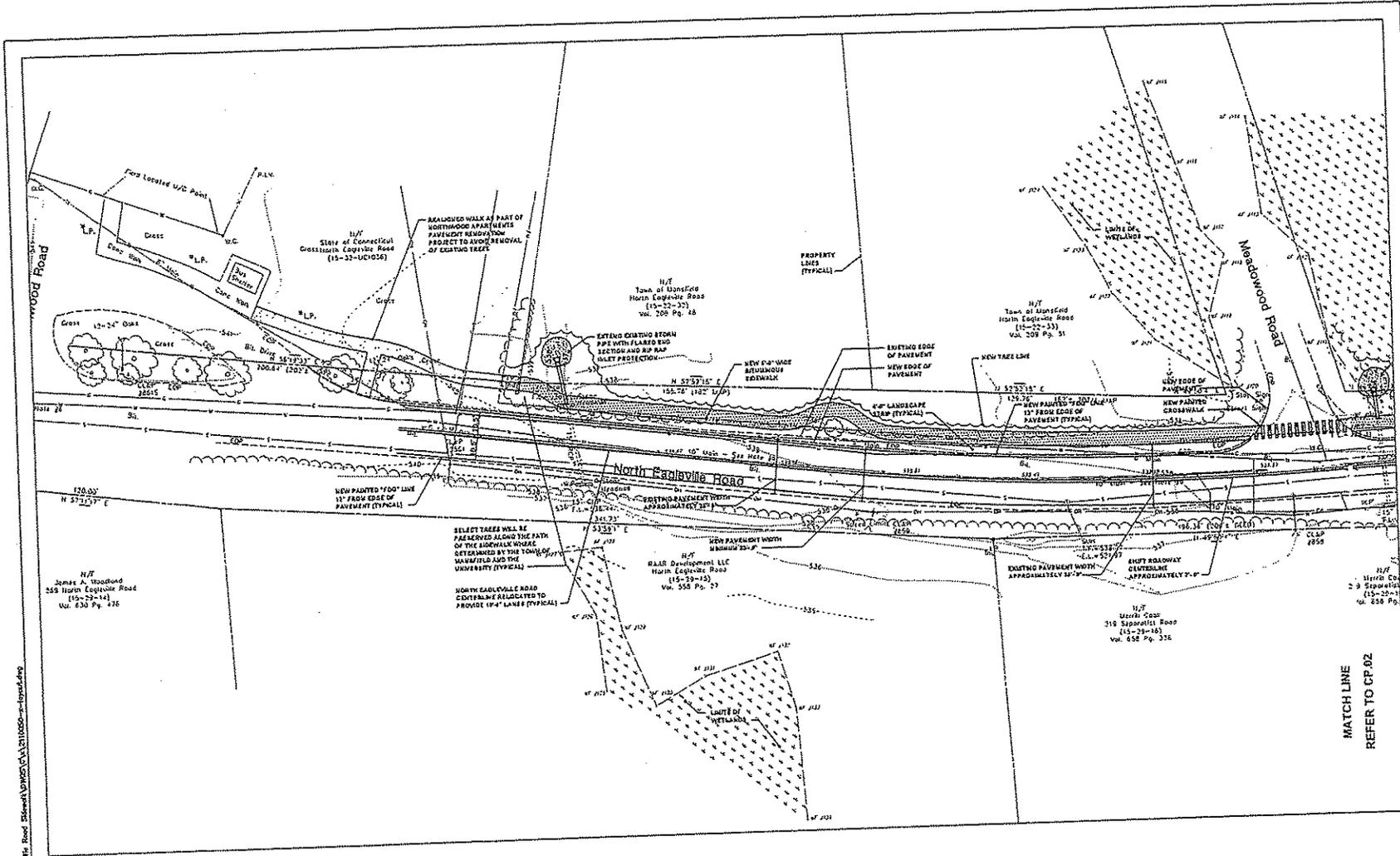
Staff recommends that the Town Council schedule a public hearing to solicit public comment regarding the North Eagleville Road sidewalk project.

If the Council supports this recommendation, the following motion is in order:

Move, effective May 24, 2010, to schedule a public hearing for 7:45 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on June 14, 2010, to solicit public comment regarding the North Eagleville Road sidewalk project.

Attachments

1) Reduced (11"x17") plan sheets (4 sheets – CP.01 to CP.04)



N. H. W. 10000 - UConn North Eagleville Road Sidewalk/Stormwater/Utility/Drainage/CP.01

MATCH LINE
 REFER TO CP.02

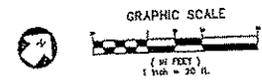


North Eagleville Road Sidewalk Project
University of Connecticut
 Storrs, Connecticut

REVISIONS		
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

DATE: May 12, 2010
 SCALE: 1" = 20'
 DRAWN: [Signature]
 CHECKED: [Signature]
 JOB NO.: 07-15-000

SHEET TITLE:
Conceptual Site Plan
 DRAWING NO.:

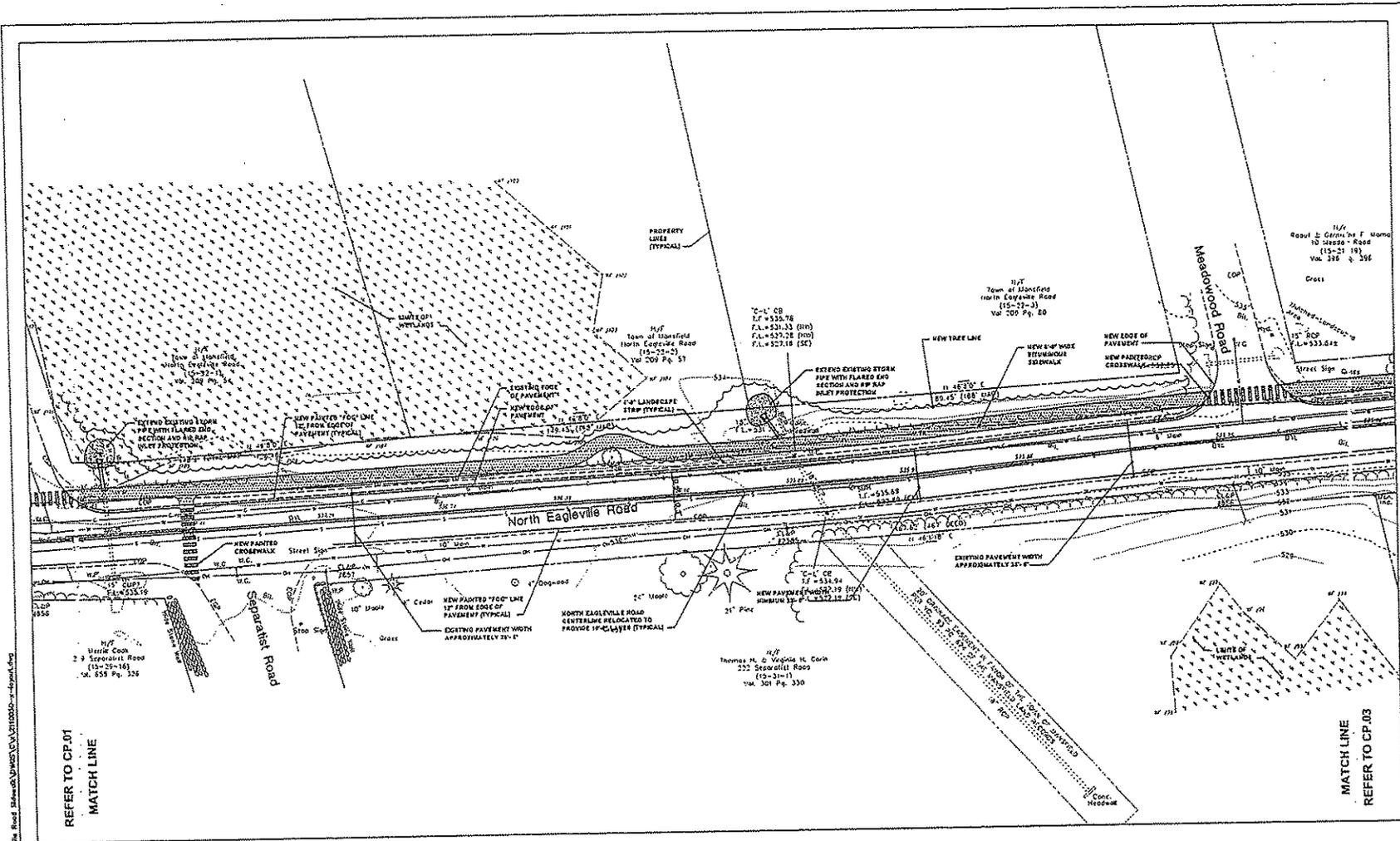


CP.01



50 Grafton Road South Bloomfield, CT 06002
 Tel: (860) 234-0115 Fax: (860) 212-0704
 CIVIL, STRUCTURAL,
 MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL,
 COMMISSIONING AND TECHNOLOGY

North Eagleville Road Sidewalk Project
 University of Connecticut
 Storrs, Connecticut



SCALE: 1/4\"/>

REVISIONS		
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

DATE: May 17, 2011
 SCALE: 1\"/>

PROJECT NAME:
 Conceptual Site Plan

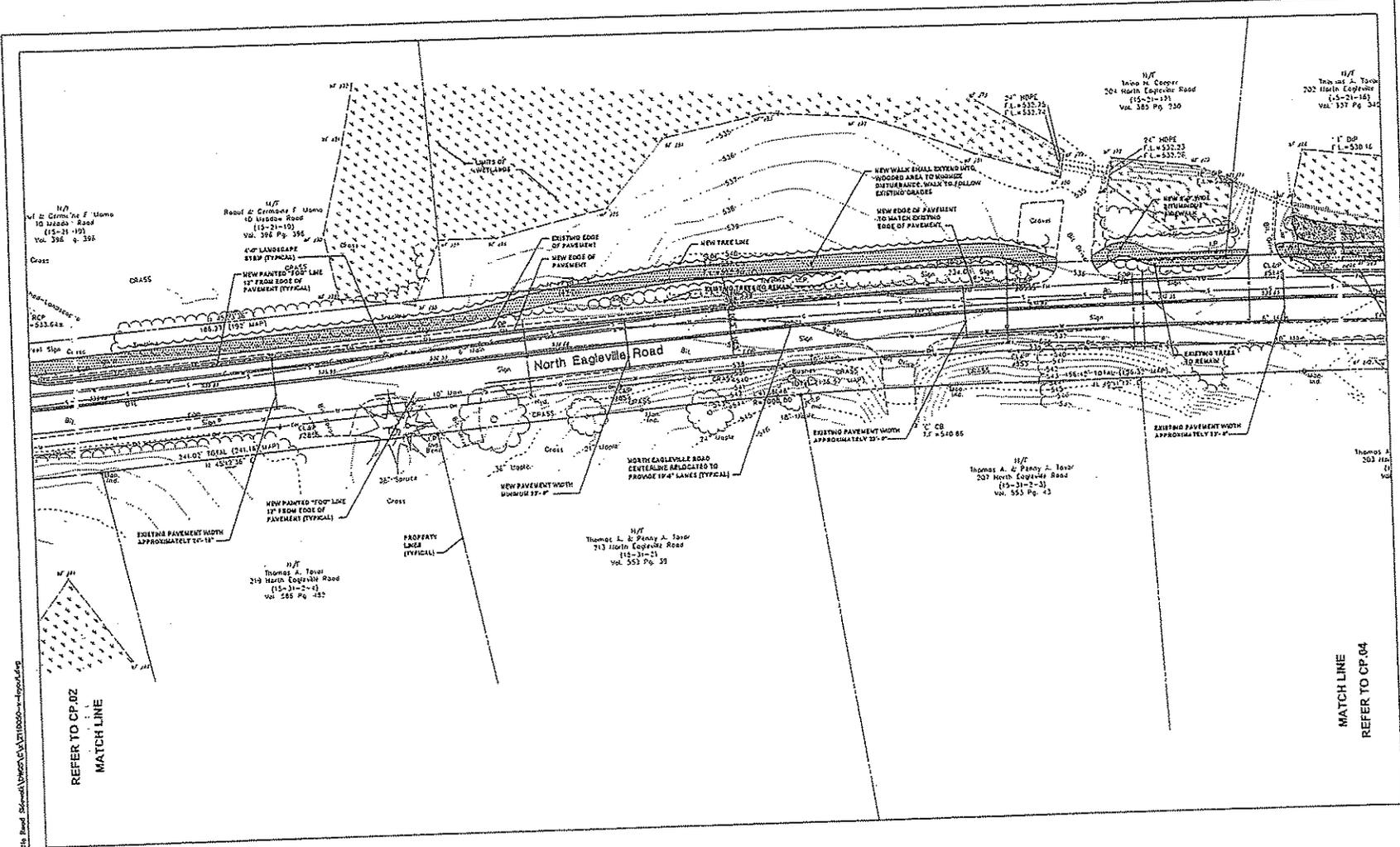
North Eagleville Road Sidewalk Project
University of Connecticut
Start: Start@uconn.edu

REVISION	
NO.	DATE

DATE: May 15, 2008
SCALE: 1" = 20'
DRAWN: JST
CHECKED: JST
JOB NO: 11-10-000

PROJECT TITLE:
Conceptual Site Plan

DRAWING NO:
CP.03

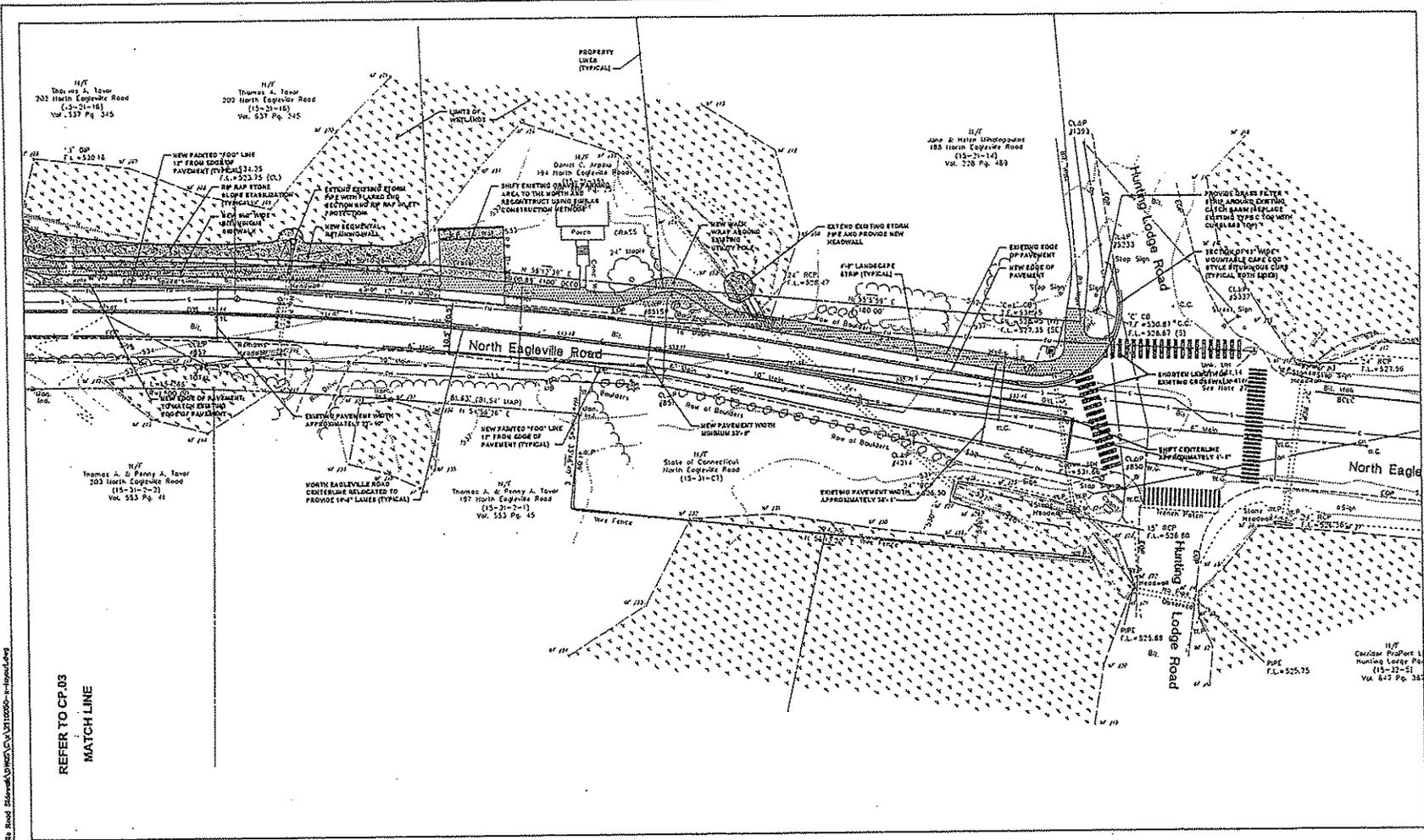


P.L. 10/10/07/10000 - 10000 North Eagleville Road (Shaded) (North) (10/10/07) - 10000/10000

REFER TO CP.02
MATCH LINE

MATCH LINE
REFER TO CP.04

North Eagleville Road Sidewalk Project
University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT



REFER TO CP.03
MATCH LINE

REVISIONS		
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

DATE: May 13, 2010
SCALE: 1" = 20'
DRAWN: [Signature]
CHECKED: [Signature]
JOB NO.: 10-10-000

SHEET TITLE:
Conceptual
Site Plan

11:12 PM W:\2010\1010000 - 1000m North Eagleville Road Sidewalk\UNIVERSITY\CP.03\1010000-10000.dwg



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matthew Hart, Town Manager *MH*
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Gregory Padick, Director of Planning; Open Space Preservation Committee
Date: May 24, 2010
Re: Dog Lane/Bundy Lane Parcel

Subject Matter/Background

In the 1980's, the University of Connecticut Foundation received a gift of a 4.6 acre parcel of vacant land at the corner of Dog Lane and Bundy Lane. The Foundation has determined that the University has no use for the parcel, and the organization has offered to transfer it to the Town by quit claim deed at no charge with the intent that the Town preserve it as open space.

The Open Space Preservation Committee (OSPC) reviewed the Foundation's offer at its April 20, 2010 meeting and some members conducted a subsequent site visit to the property. After consideration, the Committee has recommended that the Town pursue acquisition of this property and consider the possibility of transferring ownership to Joshua's Trust because the Trust owns a nearby preserve.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Town Council schedule a public hearing to solicit public comment regarding the proposal from the UConn foundation to transfer the Dog Lane/Bundy Lane parcel to the Town of Mansfield. Staff also recommends the referral of this item to the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission for review and comment.

If the Council supports these recommendations, the following motions are in order:

Move, effective May 24, 2010, to schedule a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on June 14, 2010, to solicit public comment regarding the proposal from the UConn foundation to transfer ownership of the Dog Lane/Bundy Lane parcel to the Town of Mansfield.

Move, effective May 24, 2010, to refer to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and comment the proposal from the UConn foundation to transfer ownership of the Dog Lane/Bundy Lane parcel to the Town of Mansfield.

Attachments

- 1) OSPC Report re: Transfer of Dog Lane/Bundy Lane parcel
- 2) Dog Lane/Bundy Lane parcel map

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

May 10, 2010

To: Mansfield Town Council, Matt Hart

Re: Proposal from UConn Foundation for transfer of Dog Lane/Bundy Lane parcel

The University of Connecticut Foundation received a gift of a 4.6 acre parcel of vacant land at the corner of Dog Lane and Bundy Lane in the 1980's. They have determined that the University has no use for it, and they have offered to transfer it to the Town by quit claim deed at no charge with the intent that the Town preserve it as open space. The committee reviewed this offer at its April 20, 2010 meeting and during a subsequent visit to the property by some committee members.

Description

This parcel is mostly wetlands with a few small "islands" of dry land that support large white pines. Access to the parcel is limited to a small dry area next to Dog Lane and another small area next to Bundy Lane. The wet areas host skunk cabbage and red maple. A large red maple/shrub swamp with standing water lies in the southwest corner of the property (see map). Most of the land has a barberry infestation, but there were some native wildflowers and a healthy stand of red maples and pines. A year-round stream crosses the northwest corner. A man-made ditch drains across the property from Bundy Lane into the wetlands associated with the stream. Piles of fill along Bundy Lane may have resulted from creating this ditch. A large brush pile and many leaf piles have been dumped on the Bundy Lane frontage by neighboring home owners. There is also a large patch of pachysandra spreading from plants dumped there. Pipes associated with percolation tests were also noted.

Comments

The parcel has little recreational value because of numerous wetland areas. No informal trails or other neighborhood recreational uses were noted. Town ownership of this parcel would help maintain the natural character of this visible parcel in a suburban area. The committee considered the possibility of a trail across this property to connect Joshua Trust's Whetten Woods Preserve to Bundy Lane, but the size of the swamp and adjacent wetlands probably would make it difficult to construct this trail.

Town Plan's Open Space Acquisition Priority Criteria (Appendix K):

The committee reviewed these criteria as they pertained to this property. A relevant criteria is "preserves or protects important scenic resources." This property is the only undeveloped parcel remaining on Dog Lane, a Town Scenic Road.

Anticipated start-up or maintenance requirements

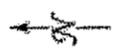
The committee recommends that this property be allowed to remain in its natural state, without trail construction or improvements. "No dumping" signs are recommended.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Town pursue acquisition of this property and consider the possibility of transferring ownership to Joshua's Trust because the Trust owns a nearby preserve.

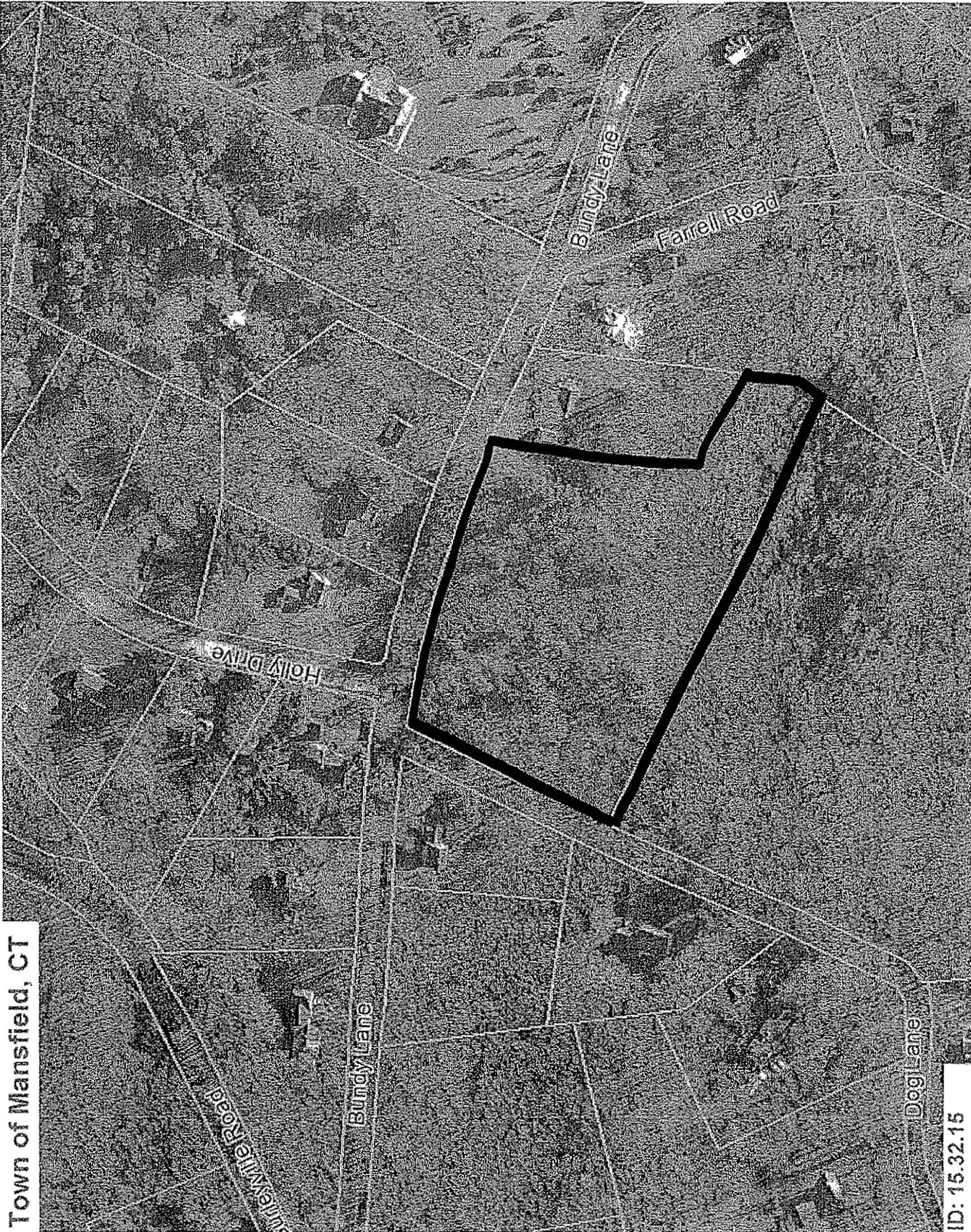


- MapGrid
- towns
- Dimensions
- Address
- ParcelID
- Area
- Streets
- Parcels
- powerlines
- wetlands
- water
- Town
- roads
- highways



1 in = 211.59 ft

Printed:
5/20/2010



ID: 15.32.15

MainStreetGIS, LLC - www.mainstreetgis.com / info@mainstreetgis.com

Disclaimer: This map is for assessment purposes only. It is not valid for use as a survey or for conveyance



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *Matt H*
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director, Mansfield Downtown Partnership
Date: May 24, 2010
Re: Re-Appointment of Council Member to Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors

Subject Matter/Background

Council member Christopher Paulhus was appointed to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors by the Town Council on January 11, 2010 to fill the vacancy left when former Council member Bruce Clouette resigned from the Board as the Town Council's representative. Council member Paulhus' term will expire on June 30, 2010.

Recommendation

If the Council would like to re-appoint Council member Paulhus to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors as one of the Town's representatives to the board, the following motion is in order:

Move, to re-appoint Christopher Paulhus to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Director for term to begin July 1, 2010 and end June 30, 2013.

PAGE
BREAK



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *M.H.*
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; David Dagon, Fire Chief
Date: May 24, 2010
Re: Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Subject Matter/Background

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced the beginning of the application period for the Fiscal Year 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. The AFG program objective is to provide funding directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of the public and fire service personnel from fire and all other hazards. The department is interested in submitting a grant application in two program areas for which the grant provides funding: Operations and Safety and Regional Projects.

Operations and Safety

The department is seeking funds in this category to replace obsolete equipment and to address a shortage of personal communication equipment, specifically the purchase of tone and voice pagers. The request is intended to:

- Improve the individual member response notification system by eliminating existing equipment shortages
- Standardize communication equipment throughout the department
- Standardize tone alerting frequency assignments and create notification groups
- Bring the department into compliance with current NFPA standards

The department is requesting funding for the purchase of eighty (80) tone and voice pagers that alert members to calls for service.

Financial Impact

The total cost for 80 tone and voice pagers is \$48,720. If the Mansfield Division of Fire and Emergency Services is awarded a grant under the AFG program a monetary match of five percent (5%) of the total amount of the award will be required. The monetary match is estimated at \$2,436, which could be funded via the division's budget or the management services fund.

Regional Projects

Mansfield Fire and Emergency Services is in discussion with six (6) neighboring fire departments that are exploring a Regional Projects application for the purchase of a live fire simulator, which is a self contained and environmentally safe unit that allows the fire

service to train fire fighters on a broad range of firefighting evolutions. Its capabilities include flashover/rollover recognition and prevention, interior and exterior fire attack, direct and indirect attack, fire behavior, search and rescue, vertical and horizontal ventilation, and basement fire with staircase access.

The request is intended to:

- Maintain members' skill levels by frequent training on conditions firefighters encounter during firefighting operations
- Standardize operational assignments among the fire departments participating in the Regional Projects initiative

Based on preliminary research the estimated cost of a Live Fire Simulator is \$325,000.

Financial Impact

If the Regional Grant is awarded the AFG program requires a monetary match of twenty percent (20%) of the cost from all participating departments. Using the estimated cost as a guide, the Mansfield Division of Fire and Emergency Services monetary match would be \$10,834, which could be funded via the capital improvement program.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed application on behalf of the Mansfield Division of Fire and Emergency Services.

If the Town Council concurs with this recommendation, the following motion is in order:

Move, to authorize Town Manager Matthew Hart to execute the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant application which purpose is to support the provision of fire protection and emergency services within the Town of Mansfield.

To: Town Council/Planning & Zoning Commission
 From: Curt Hirsch, Zoning Agent
 Date: May 11, 2010

Re: *Monthly Report of Zoning Enforcement Activity*
For the month of April, 2010 

Activity	This month	Last month	Same month last year	This fiscal year to date	Last fiscal year to date
Zoning Permits issued	12	13	11	104	109
Certificates of Compliance issued	3	11	5	87	112
Site inspections	38	63	52	418	469
Complaints received from the Public	4	4	4	33	44
Complaints requiring inspection	2	3	4	25	27
Potential/Actual violations found	2	2	10	44	49
Enforcement letters	8	7	6	108	86
Notices to issue ZBA forms	0	1	1	7	5
Notices of Zoning Violations issued	3	2	6	34	54
Zoning Citations issued	1	4	2	47	12

Zoning permits issued this month for single family homes = 0, multi-fm = 0
 2009/10 fiscal year total: s-fm = 11, multi-fm = 8

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
April 27, 2010
Minutes

Attendees: Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice Chair, Chris Kueffner, Secretary, Martha Kelly, Katherine Paulhus, Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent
Fred Baruzzi

Absent: Holly Matthews, Min Lin

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Policy Committee: Ms. Patwa presented the draft MBOE Accountability and Transparency Policy. Adoption will be at the May 6, 2010 meeting. Goodwin Bequest Committee: Mrs. Kelly reported the committee met to review applications for funding and status on current funded activities. The next meeting of the committee will be Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at 4:00pm. EASTCONN Executive Board: Mrs. Paulhus reported she attended the recent meeting and shared plans for a new building in Hampton.

SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT:

- Mansfield Education Association: Representatives of the MEA answered questions from Board Members.
- Mansfield Administrators' Association: The administrators discussed pros and cons of the various options of the school building project and answered questions from Board Members.
- Educational Benefits Pros/Cons: Board Members reviewed and discussed the options.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- Phase II: Race to the Top: Mr. Baruzzi discussed Connecticut's application for Phase II of the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant, a competitive education reform program enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).
- Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding – Mr. Baruzzi discussed the state Supreme Court's ruling on education funding.
- Racial Statistics – Mr. Baruzzi presented the districts summary of racial statistics.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded Ms. Patwa that the following item for the Board of Education meeting of April 15, 2010 be approved or received for the record: **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the April 15, 2010 Board meeting.

HEARING FOR VISITORS:

Jennifer Caniera, 38 Candide Lane, regarding the proposed PreK-4 Community School.
Bill Caniera, 38 Candide Lane, regarding the proposed PreK-4 Community School.
Debra Adamczyk, Principal Goodwin School, regarding Board discussion to gather more information on school building sites.
Amy Lapsis, 107 Candide Lane, regarding Board discussion on school building project options.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Mr. LaPlaca requested discussion of Educational Cost Sharing grant.

MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mr. Kueffner to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and contract negotiations at 10:45pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to adjourn at 11:35pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Meeting of Tuesday, 06 April 2010
 Mansfield Community Center (MCC) Conference Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07p by Acting Chair Tom Bruhn. *Members present:* Jan Ames, Tom Bruhn, Scott Lehmann, Blanche Serban. *Members absent:* Kim Bova. *Others present:* Jay O'Keefe (staff).
2. The minutes of the 02 March 2010 meeting were approved with minor corrections: "Blanche" for "Blache" and "Blanch", items 1 and 6b; "Bruhn" for "Bruch", item 5b; "Jay Ames and Blanche confirmed..." for "Jay Ames confirmed..." in item 5d.
3. **Arts Brochure.** New brochures advertising opportunities for local artists have been printed and should not sit in a box until they go missing. Jay O'K will see that brochures are put out at the MCC and Town Clerk's office; Blanche will distribute to the Mansfield Library and UConn Co-op, Jay A. to Champion's General Store, and Tom to the Benton and The Lily Pad.
4. The Committee on Committees has advertised openings on the AAC (among other Town committees) on a new "Volunteer Opportunities" flier.
5. **MCC Art Exhibits.**
 - a. The Mansfield elementary school art show should go up at the end of the week or shortly thereafter – it may take some time to get everything matted/framed. Patty Vinsonhaler and Ashleigh Kay have been asked to take down their exhibits. The schools have decided against having a reception in conjunction with the exhibit, apparently to avoid adding to any distress that those whose work was not selected for the show might feel.
 - b. Tom spoke in passing to John Bell about exhibiting Javanese puppets from the Ballard Institute in the display cases from 01 June to 15 August and reported that Mr. Bell remains interested and thought this would be a good time. However, he needs to be reminded and to submit an application with photos. Tom will do so.
 - c. The display cases (and upper sitting room area) remain available for the fall quarter of this year. Michael Allison's old application to exhibit wooden bowls (an exhibit approved for the beginning of this year, but cancelled because he needed the work for another show) remains on file. Jay A. will ask if he is interested exhibiting his work in the display cabinets in the fall.
 - d. Martin Calverly has applied to show color photographs of New England scenes. The AAC approved the exhibit after viewing the prints submitted with the application. Blanche will call to offer the winter quarter, starting 15 Jan 2011 and to ask what space he wants.

Exhibit Period	Entry cases		Sitting room		Hallway	
	Double-sided	Shelves	Upper (5)	Lower (3)	Long (5)	Short (2)
15 Jan – 14 Apr	Patty Vinsonhaler (ceramics)		Ashleigh Kay (collage painting & drawing)			
15 Apr – 31 May	Mansfield elementary schools					
1 Jun – 14 Aug	Ballard Institute? (puppets)		Nancy Bergeron (paintings)			
15 Aug – 14 Oct	Festival on the Green (advertising, art show winners)		MCC cleaning & painting 8/22-8/28			
15 Oct – 14 Jan	Michael Allison? (colored wooden bowls)		DCF Heart Exhibit 10/1 – 12/31 (photos of children needing adoption)			

6. **Adjourned** at 7:26p. Next meeting: 7:00p, Tuesday, 04 May 2010.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 13 April 2010; approved 04 May 2010.

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2010**

Members Present: Joe Briody (Chair), Toni Moran, Betsy Paterson, Steve Rhodes.
Staff Present: Town: Mike Nintean, Gregory Padick; University: Jim Hintz.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. in Buchanan Center, Mansfield Public Library.

2. S. Rhodes agreed to serve as Recording Secretary.

3. The minutes of the March 4, 2010 meeting were approved with the following corrections:

Item 4(a): "storm troopers" corrected to "Gestapo".

Item 6(c) corrected to read:

Padick explained the details of the suggested Family Zoning definition. Use of the zoning regulation permits the designation of "nonconforming use" of properties also known as grandfathering. The purpose of these changes is to act as a disincentive for creation of additional rental properties in the future, not to stop people who are currently renting properties.

Item 8(a): first sentence corrected to read:

The CQOL recommends that the Planning and Zoning Commission consider and approve a revised definition of family for the purpose of preserving the residential character of residential neighborhoods in Mansfield, including a reduction from 4 unrelated persons to 3 unrelated persons in rental properties in residential areas as defined in the expanded definition of family, February 26, 2010 draft.

4. The Committee received written comments from James Findley and Thomas Knecht on behalf of Thomas Haggerty (attached to and incorporated in these minutes). The Committee also heard oral comments from Betty Wassmundt (opposed to proposed parking regulation), David Freudmann (opposed to student tenant registry), James Findley (supporting the Committee's attempt to regulate rental properties), Thomas Knecht (expressing UConn Undergraduate Student Government's opposition to the proposed parking regulation), Elizabeth Kane (warning against over-regulating a situation caused by isolated incidents), and Sally Milins (suggesting that enforcement of existing laws and ordinances would accomplish the same ends without penalizing landlords who comply with regulations).

5. Chair Joe Briody reported that the Town Council has set the date of April 26, 2010, for a public hearing on the proposed parking ordinance, and encouraged all residents with opinions to share with the Council attend the hearing.

6. No further communications were brought to the Committee's attention.

Items of Business

7(a) Review loophole draft language.

M. Ninteau reviewed the rationale and status of the draft language to close loopholes in the designation of owner-occupied properties in existing Town regulations and ordinances. Town staff and the Town's attorney recommend new language be inserted as presented in the meeting packet in Section 5 of the Town of Mansfield Draft Ordinance (March 17, 2010) "An Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking On Residential Rental Property" (attached) to prevent the practice of circumventing the intent of the Council by deeding portions of a rental property to children or tenants, thus technically exempting that property from rental-property provisions. These conveyances are usually for a very small payment, exempting them from conveyance tax which must be based on fees received rather than appraised value. The new language would allow an exemption from residential rental property requirements only if the owner occupant is the record owner of a minimum 50% fee simple interest, in his or her personal individual capacity.

No Committee action is requested on the draft language, as this will come before the Town Council and be germane to the Public Hearing scheduled for April 26. Toni Moran urged that citizens who support this change attend the Public Hearing.

7(b) Review draft ordinance for Student Rental Registry.

The draft ordinance was prepared by the Town's attorney following discussion in earlier meetings of this Committee, based upon an ordinance in Poughkeepsie, New York. Staff believes that the scope of the Poughkeepsie ordinance goes beyond the intentions and concerns expressed by the Committee. The draft Student Rental Registry would require recording names and other information concerning individual tenants. Potential privacy issues have not been fully considered. The Town attorney believes that the Town can legally enforce the ordinance as drafted, but staff asks if this is the actual intent of the Committee and of the Town. T. Moran stated that the draft ordinance is intrusive, targets only our short-term population, and is distasteful. It poses significant difficulties in determining which tenants are students, and will not offer additional assistance in enforcing occupancy requirements. It is offensive to require this of honest landlords. J. Hintz reported that the University does not require this information of its students who live off campus, although they may voluntarily supply it. Although such information would be helpful in certain emergency situations when the University must contact an individual student, no public universities require that this information be collected. T. Moran questioned whether this additional information would allow existing Town staff to better enforce existing regulations. Betsy Paterson noted that most landlords now comply with existing occupancy regulations, and the Town does not have sufficient resources to enforce the draft ordinance. S. Rhodes remarked that he was uncomfortable with requiring only student tenants to be registered. If tenant registration is a good idea, it should apply to all tenants. The draft ordinance is basically

discriminatory. G. Padick noted that the draft ordinance was envisioned as a potential aid to enforcement of occupancy regulations, used in other communities, and a source of additional information, but probably not critical to the Town's effective enforcement of existing requirements. The Committee agreed by consensus that the draft ordinance goes beyond reasonable requirements of landlords, would be intrusive of privacy, would be costly to administer, difficult to enforce, and politically problematic. By consensus the Committee agreed that it does not wish to pursue this issue further at this time nor recommend it to the Town Council.

7(c) Review Amherst Massachusetts programs

J. Hintz explained that the Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership had invited a coalition of stakeholders at the University of Massachusetts and in Amherst and its adjacent communities to meet with MCCC to share their experience in addressing similar quality-of-life issues, especially problems involving alcohol and drugs. The coalition's power-point presentation was included in the meeting packet. T. Moran noted that CCSU was the first university to receive a grant for such a substance-abuse program, where an Alcohol Advisory Council under the auspices of the University president conducted local surveys and organized peer assistance and counseling around substance and violence issues. Owners of local alcohol establishments were part of the Council, and a problem local bar owner was drawn into that discussion with positive results. J. Hintz reported that UConn conducts a robust health education and wellness program for its students, targeting these issues. A new director for substance-abuse programming has just been hired to further address these issues in our student community. He explained that the Amherst coalition is very similar to our MCCC, and also noted that, in contrast to Mansfield, Amherst has a significant municipal police force at its disposal. J. Hintz suggested that the MCCC is the proper venue for our own discussion of these issues, and can refer suggestions for ordinances to this Committee should they arise in those discussions. B. Paterson noted that UConn's Office of Off-Campus Student Services effectively mediates many resident/tenant conflicts informally, and that residents who have complaints about student-tenant problems should consider contacting Jim Hintz to enlist the University's assistance. Chair J. Briody asked Jim Hintz to make a presentation at the Committee's next meeting on the activities of his office in resolving these issues.

7(d). Review draft of off-street parking ordinance

This item now moot, given the scheduled public hearing before the Town Council on the proposed ordinance.

7(3). Review Action Plan

G. Padick updated the Committee on individual items in the action plan:

Item 4: Planning and Zoning reviewed the definition of 'family' at its last meeting. The Town's attorney has been asked to review and comment. A P&Z hearing on a revised definition of 'family' scheduled for May 3 will be continued for at least

two weeks and perhaps into June, to allow the Windham Region Council of Governments its procedural opportunity to review the proposed changes.

G. Padick reiterated the effect of 'grandfathering' in zoning regulations. Right of use is attached to the land, not to the owner. Thus a 'nonconforming use,' appropriate under earlier regulations may be continued as long as the use is not abandoned, and regardless of whether ownership of the land changes.

T. Moran asked Jim Hintz if he would include information on model leases in his presentation at the next meeting.

8. The Committee received written comments from Jake Friedman (attached to and incorporated in these minutes). It also heard oral comments from Philip Matthews (wishing to enter into the public record the existence of problems at 399 South Eagleville Road (a repair operation that may be in violation of zoning regulations) and 406 South Eagleville Road (a rental property featuring frequent disorderly parties and disturbances)), and Jake Friedman (asking that the Committee do more to publicize existing remedies and avenues to resolve conflicts).

9. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Attachments

414 S. Eagleville Rd.
Storrs, CT. 06268
April 7, 2010

Members of the *Community Quality of Life* Committee:

I have been following some of the proposals that have been suggested by your committee and I have also read the various letters of opposition from some of the local landlords. From their perspective, I can understand their concerns about increased regulation of rental properties here in Mansfield. I am here, however, to offer a residents perspective.

Over the years, I have witnessed the sprawl of single family rental properties spread like cancer in our community. A few years ago, that sprawl reached my neighborhood when a group of college students rented the house next door at 406 South Eagleville Road. If you happen to travel through our neighborhood, you may recognize it as the house that left bags of garbage in the middle of route 275 for nearly a full week. It is also the house that decorates the lawn with red plastic cups that tend to end up on everyone else's property.

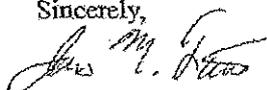
In the fall of 2006, this "party house" elevated its status to "felony house" when one of its residents, Daniel Ballerini, was arrested for first-degree sexual assault, fourth-degree sexual assault, first-degree unlawful restraint, possession of cocaine with intent to sell, possession of drug paraphernalia and tampering with a witness in connection to an incident that occurred at his residence. Mr. Ballerini was convicted of two felonies and one misdemeanor and his next Connecticut address was at the McDougal-Walker Correctional Facility.

The "felony house" tends to calm down during the winter months, but with the arrival of spring, the weekly parties of this de-facto fraternity house kick into full swing. The entire neighborhood is subject to the irresponsible behavior of premature adults who seem to feel as if this is an extension of the college dormitories without any rules to restrict their behavior. The excessive noise, traffic, litter, and underage drinking, is affecting the quality of life of the entire neighborhood.

I am in support of your proposals to increase the regulation of rental properties and I will do everything that I can to seek strict compliance with the law. As a resident, a taxpayer, and a voter in the town of Mansfield, I want to reclaim our community.

I appreciate your efforts to help us achieve that goal.

Sincerely,


James M. Findley



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

2

SS(4) S10 1/2

**Statement of Position Regarding
"An Ordinance of Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property"**

WHEREAS, the town of Mansfield has proposed an ordinance regarding "Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property";

WHEREAS, according to Section 3 of the ordinance: "unsafe, blighted, congested conditions and other negative neighborhood impacts within the Town" is achieved through the application of designated on-site parking areas;

WHEREAS, the proposal creates economic hardship by requiring landlords to implement costly changes to meet new ordinance requirements;

WHEREAS, it is likely that these new costs will be passed on to tenants of those properties, including University of Connecticut students;

WHEREAS, enforcement of this ordinance is not clearly defined;

WHEREAS, this ordinance unfairly restricts parking to pre-designated parking spaces, failing to take special events such as graduation and family weekends or circumstances such as medical needs and emergency situations into account;

WHEREAS, such conditions may deter future landlords renting out properties to students, diminishing rental competition and further limiting rental options for students;

WHEREAS, the location of the designated Rental Certification Zone is a primarily student residential area whereby individuals with particular and similar living styles reside;

WHEREAS, this ordinance only applies to "residential rental properties, particularly those with one, two or three dwelling units" in the designated Rental Certification Zone, thereby unfairly targeting students and low-income families;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government finds that the proposed ordinance regarding "Off Street Parking On

Unit 3008SG - STORRS, CT 06269-3008 • (860) 486-3708 • FAX (860) 486-5533
Website: <http://www.usg.uconn.edu> • E-mail: represent@usg.uconn.edu



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

SS(4)S10 2/2

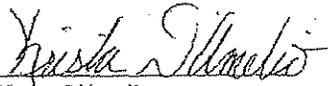
Residential Property" is not only detrimental to students, but the Town of Mansfield as a whole.

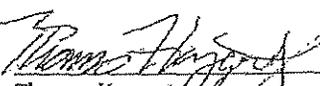
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government opposes the passage and implementation of "An Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property."

Date of Passage: 31 March 2010

Certified:

Enacted:


Krista D'Amelio
Speaker of the Senate
31 March 2010


Thomas Haggerty
President of the Student Body
31 March 2010

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Website: <http://www.usg.uconn.edu> • E-mail: represent@usg.uconn.edu

Jake Friedman
April 7, 2010

Letter to Committee for Community Quality of Life

As a voter and property owner in Mansfield, I want to share my concerns about three topics that are on your agenda this evening: the "loophole" topic, student tenant registry and the proposed parking ordinance as well as the overall approach of the Committee.

These three topics are further reflection of the troubling approach that this Committee has taken thus far in attempting to resolve issues that we face in town. In short, the approach uses large sticks and no carrots and would have questionable effect on the issues of blight and behavior. As many have said, this approach targets a particular group for restriction: students in some cases or all tenants in others and, collaterally, property owners in some or all cases. The idea of a student tenant registry is an affront to Right to Privacy of a particular group of residents and should be rejected. The other planned restrictions are irreverent of Private Property Rights. The "loophole" proposal and the parking ordinance are not unlike eminent domain, as the town would take tangible and intangible property from property owners. As a Committee you should balance actions that address blight and behavior with respect for Private Property Rights. The proposals to date encroach too far on those rights. Their intended results can be accomplished with enforcement of existing rules, much less severe restrictions or by encouraging/improving direct communication between neighbors.

The Committee's records show that rental house-related issues have been brought forth from only ~3-4 neighborhoods. This small scope presents an opportunity to make real and positive changes without restricting the large majority of us who don't have issues or are able to deal with them directly. If you think that this scope is inaccurate, please enter an information-gathering period to more accurately define the problem and problem neighborhoods.

Finally, the Committee's actions and recommendations should reflect the values of our community. To date, you have heard more public opposition to the various restrictions than support for them- from landlords and non-landlords alike. If you are interested in your actions reflecting the values of our community, then the best way to approximate that is through public referendum. Please consider recommending that your proposals be voted on by the public in this way.

Thank you.

Section 5. Applicability.

This Article shall apply to any such Residential Rental Property situated within the Rental Certification Zone of the Town of Mansfield established in the Housing Code, Chapter 130-35 of the General Code of the Town of Mansfield, except Residential Rental Property owned by the State of Connecticut and Residential Rental Property containing a dwelling unit which is the primary place of residence of the owner in which he or she remains for more than one-half of the calendar year, which [is] are exempt. To qualify for exemption, any such owner occupant must be the record owner of a minimum 50% fee simple interest in said Residential Rental Property in his or her personal individual capacity only.

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Ethics Board
Thursday, February 4, 2010
Audrey Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B

Minutes

Members Present: Lena Barry, Nancy Cox (Chair), David Ferrero, Saul Nesselroth,
Mike Sikoski, Win Smith, Nora Stevens

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager, Mary Stanton, Town
Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

II. FAQ Brochure

The Board reviewed the draft FAQ brochure and made grammatical updates via consensus; the brochure, as agreed upon by consensus, will be available online and via hard copy.

III. RULES OF PROCEDURE/COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Mr. Smith reviewed the Board's existing procedures and offered recommended revisions.

- The Board agreed to seek further clarification on its ability to pursue/prosecute complainants that file false statements. The Board asked Ms. Capriola to follow-up with the Town Attorney on the matter, to provide the Board the definition/statute related to individuals filing false statements about public officials, and to provide the State ethics statute/administrative procedures related to this topic as a sample.
- The Board agreed to change the following headings from its procedures:
 - "Investigation" to "Investigation of Complaint"
 - "No Probable Cause" to "Finding of No Probable Cause"
 - "Probable Cause Hearing" to "Finding of Probable Cause – Hearing"
- The Board agreed to seek further clarification on its ability to issue subpoenas. The Board asked Ms. Capriola to follow-up with the Town Attorney on the matter.
- The Board agreed to seek further clarification on whether or not hearings (held as a result of probable cause being determined) should be held as a public meeting open or closed to the public. The Board asked Ms. Capriola to follow-up with the Town Attorney on the matter.
- The Board agreed to seek further clarification on whether or not findings of probable cause in which (ultimately) no violation is determined to have occurred are discloseable. The Board asked Ms. Capriola to follow-up with the Town Attorney on the matter.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. 1/7/10 stand alone meeting

Ms. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes as prepared. The motion passed with all in favor.

b. 1/7/10 joint meeting with Personnel Committee

Ms. Stevens pointed out a grammatical error in the draft minutes and that the word "whom" should be replaced with "who." Ms. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2010 joint meeting with the Personnel Committee with the noted correction. The motion passed with all in favor.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - pending claims and litigation – (FOI Complaint Docket #FIC 2009-656)

Ms. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ferrero to enter into executive session. The motion passed with no objections. Entering into executive session at 5:30pm were all members of the Board, Ms. Capriola, and Ms. Stanton. The Board exited the session at 5:33pm.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stevens made a motion seconded by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with no objections. The meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria E. Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager

**Town of Mansfield Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center
Tuesday, March 2, 2010
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office
1244 Storrs Road (behind People's United Bank in Storrs Commons)**

5:00 PM

Minutes

Members Present: Karla Fox (Chair), Paul Aho, Martha Funderburk, Manny Haidous, Meredith Lindsey, Ralph Pemberton, Michael Taylor

Ex-Officio Members Present: Matthew Hart, Andy Hill, Lon Hultgren, Carrie Krasnow, Macon Toledano, Cynthia van Zelm

1. Call to Order

Chair Karla Fox called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2010

Matt Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2010. Meredith Lindsey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Remarks from the Chair

Ms. Fox introduced Carrie Krasnow from Walker Parking who will be taking on Andy Hill's role as parking consultant to the Town. Mr. Hill has accepted a position at a different firm. Ms. Krasnow has worked for Walker for over 12 years. The Committee members introduced themselves.

4. Review of Parking Expenses

Ms. Krasnow referred to a Power Point presentation and copies were given to Committee members.

With respect to the preliminary Phase 1 Program, Michael Taylor asked about the location of the surface lot. Macon Toledano confirmed that this would be in the Bishop Center lot, if needed, for Phase 1. He said this would be a private lot and, thus, expenses for surface parking are not being considered as part of the current discussion.

Ms. Krasnow said she would go over preliminary operating expenses related to the various parking options (garage, on-street). She said that the type of equipment or lack of equipment (meters) will affect cost. And, within equipment, there are several options such as single or multi-space. She said that labor considerations are the largest cost of operations.

With respect to the garage, Ms. Krasnow said the costs are largely related to the cashiering operation. On-site management can also be part of the costs and that personnel would assist with any problems that arise. Manny Haidous asked if an attendant is needed 24 hours a day. Ms. Krasnow said that typically an attendant is not there in the late night and early morning hours. The system can be set up for automation so people can get out at those hours. She does not recommend staffing the garage at all times.

Ms. Krasnow noted that the preliminary labor costs for the garage are based on contracting with a 3rd party operator. Matt Hart reiterated that the Town would most likely be looking at 3rd party management, in response to a question from Mr. Taylor.

Ms. Fox said that it will need to be determined if the garage parking is profitable or at least breaks even. Mr. Taylor suggested that, if needed, the developer guarantee a certain amount of revenue to the Town to ensure costs are covered.

Ms. Krasnow reviewed the Conceptual Garage Expenses slide. She said the current thinking is to focus more on "pay on foot" vs. paying at the gate. It requires less staffing and it is frequently seen at airports.

With respect to the conceptual overhead expense targets for the garage, Ms. Krasnow said this assumes an approximately 550 space garage, full-time staffing (see above re: not 24/7), and a 3rd party operator (not the Town).

Mr. Haidous asked if there was a mixed model (municipal and private). Andy Hill said the estimated staff costs were taken from the Hartford MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) labor rates for parking attendants. He said these costs are most likely a representation of staff costs for private and publicly operated garages. Ms. Krasnow said there are more efficiencies to the operations being done by one of the other – public or private entities.

Ms. Krasnow noted that the breakdown of estimated costs is included on a daily, monthly and annual basis. She said it is based on 25 days as Mondays and Tuesdays tend to be slower retail days/ a conservative analysis.

Ms. Fox asked Mr. Toledano how many people are expected in the housing units. Mr. Toledano said the majority of the parking spaces will be dedicated to residents who will pay a monthly fee to the operator. He said the estimate is 350 units in Phase 1. The zoning regulations require 1.25 spaces for each unit which approximates to 440 spaces. Mr. Toledano said spaces can be allocated to residents in the surface lot and the garage. This leaves approximately 200 spaces left for commercial activity. He said once the square footage is determined for Phase 1, a decision will need to be made whether some temporary parking would need to be developed on site.

Mr. Taylor noted that his lot and Mr. Haidous' commercial lot are filled during the week. He expressed concern about whether there are enough spaces. Mr.

Toledano said it is a balancing act between creating enough spaces but not too many and recognized the issue.

Mr. Hultgren noted that the parking analysis assumes shared parking and so this needs to factor into the discussion. Mr. Toledano also noted that the goal is for Storrs Center to be a transit oriented project. The hope is to incentivize people not to drive, especially students who might drive over from campus.

Mr. Taylor expressed concern about the location of parking for "grab and go" items. Ms. Krasnow said that on-street parking is typically priced more expensive than lots or a garage as it turns over more quickly. This is the type of parking that makes sense for "grab and go."

Mr. Toledano reiterated the goals of Storrs Center – to create a downtown where a person parks once and uses the commercial venues as well as the Community Center, Post Office, Town Hall, etc. The focus is on creating a pedestrian-friendly area and providing access to local (UConn and WRTD) and regional (Peter Pan) bus service.

Mr. Taylor said that his current leases do not allow for him to charge for parking.

Ms. Krasnow said that multi-space meters print tickets for recipients. They tend to be more expensive than one meter per space but less of them are needed.

Ms. Krasnow said that the conceptual on-street expenses assume paying by space through some type of metering systems (vs. time limited spaces) and 3rd party management. She said it also assumes central meter hardware. She said that private companies can do meter collection. Mr. Hill said that a company such as Central Parking can conduct on-street enforcement and management. He said that the revenues go to the owner of the entity, not the private company.

Ms. Lindsey asked about the location of on-street parking. Mr. Toledano said it would be on Storrs Road, Village Street and a few on Dog Lane. Ms. Lindsey asked if she would have to pay if she was in a space for a few minutes while she purchases an item ("grab and go") Mr. Toledano said that some spaces could be stipulated for short-term parking. The number is key. Mr. Hultgren said that stores could also validate tickets.

Mr. Toledano said the goal is for parking to be concentrated and convenient. He noted that the Town had actually requested more funding for the garage than it received. Number of spaces, and expense and cost revenues are being based on \$10.5 million in state and federal funding.

Ms. Krasnow referred to the last page of the Power Point presentation which assumes preliminarily that each space costs about \$2.00 a day.

5. Update on Grants

Ms. van Zelm referred to the grant the Town had submitted to Congressman Courtney as part of the appropriations process. She said the grant was for hardware and software related to Storrs Center parking. She noted that copies had been e-mailed previously to the Committee. She said the Town Council had approved submittal of this request but there was some concern raised about any assumptions about enforcement at surrounding lots. Ms. van Zelm said while the goal was to have a placeholder for items that may be needed in the future, at the Council's direction, specifics were pulled from the applications submitted. There will need to be more discussion by this Committee, the Town, the University of Connecticut, and surrounding property owners before any decisions are made on enforcement. She said that once the design is completed on the garage, this will also inform what the needs are for parking software and hardware. Ms. van Zelm said the request had been subsequently submitted to Senators Dodd and Lieberman.

Mr. Toledano said the goal is to use the land available as efficiently as possible including managing the stormwater run-off. He said that surface parking with its impervious surface contributes to run-off as opposed to a garage. He said the current planned system will improve the wetlands toward the back of the property.

6. Topics for next meeting

Ms. Fox suggested reviewing conceptual revenues for Phase 1 parking; operation management; and adjacent lot issues for the next meeting.

Mr. Hultgren suggested to Ms. Krasnow that it would be helpful to have information from other communities/models on how they address the management of project parking with adjacent other parking.

7. Discussion of meeting time

Ms. Fox suggested meeting at 5:30 for the April 13 meeting and then changing the meeting time to 5 pm going forward.

8. Public Comment

David Freudmann, 22 Eastwood Road, expressed concerns about the conceptual labor costs and suggested the Committee conduct its own research on the labor costs.

Ms. Fox asked Ms. Krasnow to bring additional information on the basis for their estimated labor costs.

Ms. Fox said the discussion she heard was labor costs were based on a 3rd party operator, not the municipality. She said her understanding was that if a 3rd party is operating the garage, they would not be hiring an additional person if someone got sick. The cost is set. Ms. Krasnow concurred.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm.

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
May 6, 2010
Minutes

Attendees: Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Chris Kueffner, Secretary, Min Lin, Holly Matthews, Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi
Absent: Shamim Patwa, Katherine Paulhus, Martha Kelly

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Policy Committee: **MOTION** by Ms. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Walikonis to adopt the proposed Open and Transparent Government Policy. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
Mrs. Kelly arrived at 7:48pm.

SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT:

- Parent Organizations: Sheryl Lambert, President MMSA, Julie Brown, President Southeast PTO, Diane Briody, President and Laura Scruggs, Vice President, Goodwin PTO, and Lisa Drzewiecki and Sarah Dahlia, Co-Presidents Vinton PTA discussed feedback from parents regarding the school building options.
- Greg Padick, Town of Mansfield Director of Planning, discussed development in town and potential school building locations.
- Bill Hammon, Director of Facilities Management, reported on predicted and potential school building repairs/replacements through 2013-2014.
- Cherie Trahan, Director of Finance, reported on debt services schedule for Options C, D, and E, as well as options regarding referendum ballot questions.
- Mr. Baruzzi provided information regarding free and reduced lunch counts at each of the three elementary schools.
- The Board discussed a vote on the school building project at the May 13, 2010 meeting.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- Annual Staff Retirement Celebration: **MOTION** by Mr. LaPlaca, seconded by Ms. Matthews to transfer money from BOE Retreat and authorize the Superintendent to transfer up to an additional \$1000 to fund the district staff retirement celebration. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
- Town of Mansfield New Website: Mr. Baruzzi reported on the new website and new instructions for accessing BOE email.
- Phase II: Race to the Top: Mr. Baruzzi and Mr. LaPlaca discussed Connecticut's application for Phase II of the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant, a competitive education reform program enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). If awarded, the district would receive \$196,164 over a four year period. The Board will be asked to approve a Memorandum of Understanding in support of the State's application.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: May 6, 2010 be approved or received for the record: **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor with Ms. Lin and Ms. Matthews abstaining.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the April 27, 2010 Board meeting.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education accepts the retirement of Nancy Cantara, grade four teacher at Goodwin School, Linda Duckstein, special education teacher at Vinton School, Anne Grosjean, grade one teacher at Goodwin School, and Marcia Heneson, literacy coach/remedial reading teacher at Vinton School.

HEARING FOR VISITORS:

Sheryl Lambert expressed her support to the Board regarding a decision regarding the school building project.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Mrs. Kelly requested discussion regarding coalition for community schools and other organization that link communities, families and schools. She requested inviting Representative Denise Merrill to discuss state reimbursement rates. Mr. LaPlaca would like discussion around process of design of a school.

MOTION by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Ms. Matthews to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and contract negotiations at 10:45pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

Returned to Open Session at 11:35pm.

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein accept the wage agreement between the UPSEU and Mansfield Board of Education through June 30, 2012. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Ms. Matthews to adjourn at 11:36pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk

**MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP
ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE**

Festival on the Green Subcommittee

Monday, May 3, 2010

Partnership Offices

1244 Storrs Road (Storrs Commons)

(860) 429-2740

5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Betsy Paterson, Tom Birkenholz, Kim Bova, Ashley Fraser, Jim Hintz, and Barry Schreier

Staff: Kathleen Paterson

1. Call to order

Betsy Paterson called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

3. Minutes

Jim Hintz moved to approve the Minutes from April 19, 2010. Tom Birkenholz seconded the motion. The sub-committee approved the Minutes.

4. Review Task List

Advertising: Ashley Fraser said that the Sponsorship brochures were ready to mail.

Barry Schreier suggested including information about the Parade in the Sponsorship brochure next year.

Kathleen Paterson reported that she had begun updating the website and noted that, because the Town is transitioning to its new website, there might be a delay in updating the *Festival* information. She added that information was submitted for the Summer Parks & Rec brochure.

Art: Kim Bova reported that Michael Allison agreed to serve on the selection committee and to lend his display panels for the show. She said that the mailing list is being reviewed.

Music: Ms. Bova said that she spoke with her friend about the dance idea for Picnicpalooza. Her friend did not think her own band would be appropriate because they focus on international dances and instead suggested finding a contra-dance band. **Ms. Bova and Ms. K. Paterson will find the contact information for the contra-dance band that plays locally.**

Mr. Hintz said that he did not have luck with his search for a UConn band.

After some discussion, the sub-committee decided to invite Mansfield Academy of Dance (M.A.D.), Villari's Martial Arts of Storrs Center, and two UConn groups.

Ms. Bova suggested looking at performing groups other than dance.

Mr. Schreier suggested the UConn improv group.

Ms. K. Paterson suggested asking the Filipino American Student Association, who had danced in the annual Asian Night on campus.

Mr. Hintz and Mr. Schreier will contact UConn groups. Ms. K. Paterson will contact M.A.D. and Villari's.

Children's: Ms. K. Paterson explained the interactive drumming idea to the group.

Mr. Hintz expressed concern about the noise level and sound competition with the Wii activity.

After some discussion, the sub-committee decided to keep the dunk tank. Mr. Birkenholz suggested moving it to the outer edge of the parking lot. It was suggested that each participating group have a sign explaining that it is a fundraiser for them.

Food: Mr. Hintz said that UConn may participate with food this year and that he is working with Dining Services on some ideas.

5. Discuss vegetable sculpture idea

Ms. Bova suggested that children should be invited to bring their "veggie art" to the *Festival* for display and judging. She added that children should be encouraged to use mostly food materials to create their design.

Ms. K. Paterson said that it would be helpful to have a group of volunteers coordinate the activity that day. **She will add it to the list of volunteer needs.**

6. Celebrate Mansfield Weekend update

Ms. K. Paterson reported that she, Cynthia van Zelm, and Corine Norgaard met with Gail Parks at the Altnaveigh to discuss the plans for Vintage Mansfield. Ms. Parks had requested that the time of the event be changed slightly, so the event will run from 4:30 – 6:30 pm this year.

The sub-committee expressed a desire to have music at the event. **Ms. K. Paterson will share the request with Ms. van Zelm, Ms. Norgaard, and Ms. Parks.**

7. Other

Ms. Paterson said that she has reserved a time for Ms. van Zelm and her to appear on the Mark Paquette show closer to the date of the *Festival*.

Mr. Schreier volunteered to do the radio show with Ms. van Zelm again.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kathleen M. Paterson



COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
April 6, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.
Town Clerk Vault

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Toni Moran called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Present: Meredith Lindsey, Toni Moran, Bill Ryan

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were offered

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Lindsey moved and Mr. Ryan to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. REVIEW OF COMMITTEES FOLLOW UP

The following will be added to the waiting list: Carol Pellegrine (Town/Gown), Jan Scottron (Commission on Aging), Wes Bell, Christine Dittrich, John Dittrich, and Raluca Mocanu (Agriculture Committee)

5. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Committee members agreed to present the following nominations to the Council:

Darren Cook to the Parks and Recreation Committee
Dennis Roberts to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Mr. Ryan will ask the Region 19 Board Chair if any Board member might be willing to serve on the Sustainability Committee. If not, he will contact Ginny Walton, staff person to the Committee, to see if there are Region 19 teachers who might be interested in serving.

Ms. Moran will call Joan Buck and Mr. Ryan will call Sarah Milius to assess their interest in serving on the Solid Waste Advisory Board. Ms. Lindsey will contact Tom Ward regarding the Building Board of Appeals. Ms. Moran will contact Bill Briggs and Steve Lane regarding the Housing Board of Appeals and Mr. Ryan will contact David Spencer also regarding the Housing Board of Appeals.

Ms. Moran will talk to the Chair of the Community Quality of Life Committee to see if the Committee did approve recommending the addition of an additional citizen to the Board. If so, she will present that recommendation to the Town Council.

Mr. Ryan will contact Becky Reno and/or Ed Peavy to see if they might be interested in serving on the Communication Advisory Committee. Ms. Lindsey will contact the Communication Department at UConn to see if any staff might be interested.

6. DISCUSSION OF TOWN COUNCIL POLICY REGARDING ADVISORY COMMITTEES' COMMUNICATION WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES

The Committee discussed the policy, reviewed the relevant material and agreed to support the policy as currently stated.

The Town Clerk will provide information on the current status of the most recent letters from the Conservation Commission.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The structure of the Social Services Committees will be discussed at the May meeting. The Director of Human Services will be asked to attend to assist with the discussion.

8. OTHER

The Town Clerk will disseminate the volunteer opportunity flyers to local organizations, churches, political parties, newspapers etc. Handouts will also be provided for the forum on the proposed school options.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

**MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Tom Callahan (Chair) (by phone), Phil Barry, Harry Birkenruth, Matt Hart (by phone), Mark Hammond, Phil Spak and Frank Vasington

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

Guest: Howard Kaufman, LeylandAlliance (by phone)

1. Call to Order

Chair Tom Callahan called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Tom Callahan made a motion to go into executive session to review and discuss commercial and financial information provided in confidence by Storrs Center Alliance – CGS 1-200 (6), 1-210(b)(5)(B).

Harry Birkenruth seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Executive Session – Review and discussion of commercial and financial information provided in confidence by Storrs Center Alliance

Present: Committee members Mr. Barry, Mr. Birkenruth, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Hart, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Spak and Mr. Vasington.

Also Present: Mr. Kaufman and Ms. van Zelm

3. Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2010

Phil Barry made a motion to approve the February 25, 2010 minutes. Frank Vasington seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Review of Budget and Personnel

Matt Hart confirmed that there are currently no increases in the proposed Town budget with respect to employee salaries except for steps and longevity. The

Committee will continue to monitor any Town action. The Partnership budget currently includes no increase for staff.

5. Update on Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee

Mr. Hart said the Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee invited environmental groups to its last meeting to give them an update on the Committee's work. He said there is a favorable preliminary report on a local aquifer that may be able to provide a water source to Four Corners. Mr. Hart said the environmental groups did express concern about bringing in water from a water line that could lead to more development along the water line route.

Mr. Hart said the proposed Town budget includes \$330,000 for engineering and permitting work on infrastructure at Four Corners. If approved, it would be funded through bond proceeds.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Barry made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Birkenruth seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm

**MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP
NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Offices
Tuesday, January 5, 2010**

3:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Chair Philip Lodewick, Steve Bacon, Honey Birkenruth, Steve Rogers

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

1. Call to Order

Chair Philip Lodewick called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes from May 5, 2009

Steve Bacon made a motion to approve the minutes from May 5, 2009. Steve Rogers seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Discussion of Board Member Terms/New Members

The Committee discussed the Board openings. Mike Gergler will have served his last term as of June 30, 2010. Kristin Schwab, Frank McNabb, and Steve Rogers' terms are up. The Town Council will need to appoint a new member. The Committee agreed that Mr. Lodewick will ask Ms. Schwab and Mr. McNabb if they are interested in being put in for nomination for another Board term. Mr. Rogers agreed to another term pending action by the Mansfield Business and Professional Association.

Mr. Bacon and Cynthia van Zelm said that Bruce Clouette had expressed interest in serving as an elected representative (served previously as a Town Council representative). The Committee agreed that Mr. Clouette would be a good choice and will recommend that his name be placed in nomination.

4. Discussion of Committee Chairs

Mr. Gergler currently serves as Business Development and Retention Committee Chair but with his Board term ending, will need to step down as Chair as only Board members can chair committees. The Committee recommended Mr. Rogers and he accepted. The recommendation will be brought to the full Board at its February meeting.

5. Annual Meeting

The Committee briefly discussed the Annual Meeting with the goal that it include an update on progress and hopefully some type of groundbreaking. More discussion will be held on the Annual Meeting.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm

APPROVED MINUTES

Town of Mansfield
Communications Advisory Committee
December 14, 2009, 7:00 pm
Audrey P. Beck Building, Conference Room B

- I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:04. Attend were L. Fecho (chair); P. McGlamery (reporting); A. Booth; R. Pelligrine. Staff in attendance: Jaime Russell
- II. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 11/2/2009 accepted. Report of 9/5/2009 accepted
- III. Public Comment: Rick Hossack commented on community involvement. He volunteered to help to improve communications in the Town.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Next Year's Committee Meeting Dates: Committee agreed that one meeting per month was sufficient. Two hour meetings will be held on the First Monday with no meeting in the month of July.
 - B. Budget Process: Chair Fecho will communicate with the Matt Hart about information concerning the Current Year Shortfall and Re-evaluation being published with the "Citizen's Guide".
 - C. Communications Channel Inventory: PMcG will do this and present to MCAC in Spring.
 - D. Committee Membership Status: Chair Fecho attended the Committee on Committees meeting and reported the need for 2 Full and 1 Alternate member.
 - E. Communications Policy Development: J. Russell shared the work being done on redesigning the Web component to a Content Management System. No Date on Roll-out. MCAC will begin developing a Policy Statement for January.
 - F. Survey Opportunities: L. Fecho and PO. McGlamery will meet to develop a report and present to MCAC. LF will prepare a draft and circulate.
- V. New Business
- VI. Reports: Chair Fecho shared a packet from Windsor's communications officer.
- VII. Communications: None

VIII. Agenda for the Next Meeting:

IX. Adjournment: 9:20

**MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Offices
March 15, 2010
8 AM**

MINUTES

Present: Frank McNabb (Chair), Dennis Heffley, Jim Hintz, Steve Rhodes

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

1. Call to Order

Frank McNabb called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

2. Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2010

Steve Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Hintz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Follow-up on Outreach

Mr. McNabb suggested that more information be placed on the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce and Windham Chamber of Commerce web pages about the Partnership. **Ms. van Zelm will follow-up.**

Ms. van Zelm said the UConn student reception is planned for March 24. Mr. Rhodes said he could put up information on the President's blog.

The Committee discussed times and locations for staffing a table at Alumni Weekend. The Committee decided that Friday, June 4 between 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm near the ballroom, and Saturday, June 5 between 9 am and 2 pm near the registration table would work best. **Ms. van Zelm will check locations with Kim Lachut at the Alumni Association (done). Mr. McNabb, Dennis Heffley and Mr. Rhodes agreed to staff the tables and Ms. van Zelm also put out a request to Board members.**

Mr. Rhodes suggested changing the information on the Storrs Center presentation for UConn Alumni Weekend on the Alumni Association website to "Building Downtown Storrs" so it will be more recognizable than presentation by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. **Ms. van Zelm will talk to Kim Lachut (done).**

Mr. Heffley confirmed that Partnership/Storrs Center information can be available at the UConn Economics alumni meeting on April 2. Ms. van Zelm will give Mr. Heffley materials at the April Board meeting.

Ms. van Zelm will follow-up on outreach through the i-parent network (done).

Mr. Rhodes suggested tapping into the EO Smith Foundation. Can they include an update on Storrs Center in their newsletter? **Ms. van Zelm will follow-up.**

Ms. van Zelm said Partnership Special Projects Coordinator Kathleen Paterson will continue to work on sending out membership letters to the business community. Partnership staff is working on sending 25 letters at a time to businesses on its business list.

Mr. Rhodes will send Ms. van Zelm the Connecticut Repertory Theater (CRT) summer schedule to check in with Frank Mack at CRT re: the possibility of the Partnership having a table at the productions. Mr. McNabb suggested that this might be something the students who have applied to be the student rep on the Board might do.

Mr. McNabb suggested that information be placed in the Alumni leader (e-mail database of UConn alumni) every quarter when it is sent out.

Committee members confirmed their staffing times at the Partnership table at the UConn off-campus housing fair on March 24.

4. Membership Renewal Drive Update

Committee members said they are working on their contacts with members who have not yet renewed.

5. Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to meet on Monday, April 12 at 8 am in the Partnership office.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm.

**MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Offices
April 12, 2010
8 AM**

MINUTES

Present: Frank McNabb (Chair), Steve Rhodes

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

1. Call to Order

Frank McNabb called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

2. Approval of Minutes from March 15, 2010

There was no quorum so the minutes were not approved.

3. Follow-up on Outreach

With respect to Alumni Weekend, Cynthia van Zelm said she had sent dates to the Board to see if they can staff a table at registration. She spoke with Kim Lachut at the Alumni Association about the location of tables outside the ballroom and near registration for both Friday and Saturday. Ms. van Zelm said Ms. Lachut indicated that packets will be sent via e-mail. Ms. Lachut will change the title of Philip Lodewick's presentation to "Building Downtown Storrs" on the on-line registration info. The hard copy brochure is complete so it will not be able to be changed. Steve Rhodes said he could staff a table if he is not busy with other Alumni Weekend duties. Mr. McNabb can staff a table both days as needed. **Ms. van Zelm will check with Dennis Heffley and Jim Hintz on times to staff meeting.**

The Committee discussed a packet for Alumni Weekend and suggested 1) membership brochures (b/w could be done for extras), 2) Fact Sheet, 3) Concept Plan/Timeline, 4) Housing survey. **Ms. van Zelm will check in with Ms. Lachut on how many copies she believes would be needed. Ms. van Zelm will talk to Monica Quigley about what material can be produced to ascertain housing interest from the alumni.** Mr. McNabb said it will be important to have something that can be filled out on the spot.

With respect to i-parent network (to get information out to the EO Smith community), Ms. van Zelm will get in touch with Barbara Casey (**done/but need to determine access to blog**).

Ms. van Zelm said she spoke to Kathleen Paterson in the Partnership office about website follow-up and Ms. Paterson indicated that with the new website, one will be able to see the number of "hits" on the site. On the new site, a bank of photos or images will change out when one navigates away from the site.

The Committee agreed to hold on producing a poster of information about Storrs Center and membership information.

Ms. van Zelm will provide Storrs Center information to Frank Mack for the Connecticut Repertory summer performances at UConn (*to be delivered on May 13*).

4. Membership Renewal Drive Update

Committee members agreed to hold off for now on sending a third renewal letter. Committee members were given a list of who had not renewed yet.

5. Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to meet on Monday, May 17 at 8 am in the Partnership office.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 am.

Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm.

Historic District Commission
Monday April 12, 2010
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was convened at 8:00 pm in Conference Room C, Mansfield Town Hall

1) Public Hearing:

Public Hearing was held for outbuilding on property of Mr. Bill Gray, 93 Mansfield Hollow Road. Mr. Gray presented the commission with the architectural drawing made by D&W development (March Dressler). The outbuilding will utilize the original hinges and screws and a 6 pane window. A vote to pass was presented and all committee members approved the outbuilding.

2) Old Business

Minutes from the March 9th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Jody Newmeyer's contribution to the Historic District Commission and her many years as a loyal member was recognized. It was agreed that a letter stating that the Committee recognized Jody's service during this meeting would be sent to her son, Dan Newmeyer.

3) New Business:

Certificates of Appropriateness from other historic districts were reviewed for their usefulness in creating a new form for Mansfield. J.McGarry agreed to combine the best points from each and present a proposal to the Commission at the May meeting for a replacement to our current form. We will explore the possibility of having this available through the Mansfield town website

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason McGarry



Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

**Mansfield YSB Advisory Board
Minutes**

Tuesday April 13, 2010
12:00pm at Mansfield Town Hall
Conference Room B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Frank Perrotti, Co-Chair
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Kathleen McNamara, YSB Senior Social Worker
Kevin Grunwald, Director of Human Services
Eileen Griffin, Social Worker
Jerry Marchon, Police Officer
Jeff Smith, Board Member
Teri Hebert, Board Member
Amber Hoyt, EO Smith Student
Lauren DiGrazia, Graduate MSW Intern

Guest: Dan Mainiero, Resident State Trooper

Proceedings

- *Meeting called to order at 12:02pm by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris*
- *March 16, 2010 meeting minutes were accepted and approved*
- *Dan Mainiero was introduced to the board. He will be taking Jerry Marchon's place when Jerry retires from the Town.*

- *Report from the Director of Human Services, Kevin Grunwald*
 - Kevin Grunwald informed the board that Ethel Mantzaris is receiving an award for outstanding youth volunteer through NECASA
 - Kevin Grunwald also discussed the forum that will take place tonight on the one-school project
 - This forum will have two panels:
 - 1 – Panel on implications about one large school
 - 2 – Panel about the financial implications of one school
 - Kevin Grunwald informed the board that the state will only reimburse for new schools not for renovations

- *Report from YSB Coordinator, Patricia Michalak*
 - Patricia Michalak discussed the recent activities of the YSB.
 - Activities include the following:

- Student Update: Frank Perrotti and Patricia Michalak met with Bruce Silva in regards to assisting Samantha with transition to the High School. We have established a High School mentor for her and we are encouraging participation in our weekly Girl's group. She has attended one group, met her mentor and decided she didn't want to continue. She will continue to work with our student intern who has been making weekly home visits. Bruce Silva has been contacted.
- JOY Program: Sixty Four tickets were donated by the JOY program for our families to attend two performances at Jorgenson: Jack Hanna & the Year of the Frog and Toad. Kathy worked hard calling all of our Cope families to see who would qualify and who were interested. The participants were thrilled to receive the tickets and for many it was their first time on the Uconn Campus.
- Juvenile Justice Community Breakfast: I attended a community meeting sponsored by our state representatives. The theme was that servicing our children in our own communities and avoiding unnecessary contact with the juvenile justice system saves taxpayers money and is more successful in preventing crime. This is because of "zero-tolerance polices" and an over reliance on police to enforce school discipline be. **Children are much more likely to be arrested at school then they were a generation ago. This is putting youth into the system who do not belong there.** Many are Status offenders or youth who run away, are truant or are beyond their parents control and are helped with counseling and other services to stay out of the Juvenile justice system.
- Department of Corrections: I followed up with Michelle Hayward from the Dept of Corrections who continues to check to see if there are children in Mansfield who have parents incarcerated. As of our last discussion there are no new children of parents incarcerated in Mansfield. Mansfield residents are incarcerated but their children are not living in Mansfield.
- Grief Matters: The Grief Matters program has been a huge success. Though our meetings have ended there will be a follow up evaluation meeting for volunteers and a pot luck reunion dinner next fall for all the family participants.
- Girl's Group: We took 6 of the girls from this group to Walmart to purchase their memory books. We are working on memory books of their mothers.
- JUMP program: Villari's Martial Art studio at Storrs had their annual karate tournament at Uconn this month. Some of our children competed at this event which was very exciting and character building.
- PAWS conference: The PAWS conference took place this month and Kathy and I took 14 of our students to this event. The conference teaches the children about handling stress, understanding stereotyping, dealing with feelings of sadness and depression, and healthy vs. unhealthy relationships. Some of the workshops included guided imagery, social justice, and Tae Kwon Do.
- Easter Food Basket: There were a number of YSB families that were supported by the Storrs congregational church this Easter.

Through the generosity of others many of our families were able to have a healthy Easter celebration.

- *Old Business:*
 - Advisory Board Member Update*
 - Teri Hebert, Special Education Teacher, and Jeff Smith, Former Head of Finance for the town of Mansfield are officially members of the advisory board.

- *New Business:*
 - Guest speaker Kathy Ann Easley was unable to attend this meeting
 - Amber Hoyt, EO Smith Student, has decided to attend SCSU next year
 - The Grief Group has ended
 - There was a continuation of the discussion on the elementary school proposal.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 12:49pm

Minutes submitted by Graduate MSW Intern, Lauren DiGrazia

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
March 4, 2010

Present: Knox (chair), Ames, Coughlin, Roberts, Smith, Walton (staff), Tim DeVivo (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes of the January 7, 2010 meeting were accepted.

Flyers for the Municipal Climate Action Summit, on March 13, 2010, were distributed to committee members.

Tim DeVivo, from Willimantic Waste Paper, spoke to the committee about waste and recycling trends. He stated that single-stream recycling and automated collection service reduces costs for the collector. DeVivo went on to say that the composition of the recycling stream has changed to lighter plastic containers, fewer glass bottles, thinner and fewer newspapers and fewer pieces of junk mail. Walton reported that according to Jerry Powell, editor of *Resource Recycling* magazine, nationally recycling rates have remained flat over the past decade despite municipal increases in what can be collected for recycling. These factors may be contributing to the decline in Mansfield's recycling rates.

Walton reported that EO Smith High School started composting February 22, 2010. The Chronicle will be doing an article on the Green Teen's efforts. The Town is using WeRecycle as the electronics recycler for 2010. Mansfield is using a different vendor from the Mid-NEROC contract because the Town is assured of WeRecycle's business ethics. Walton will be picking up litter with UConn Community Outreach on March 21. Knox will be working with UConn students from the Learning Community class on March 27.

The committee discussed some possible changes that could be made to the single family collection after the current contract ends September 2010. It was decided to move the Friday service to a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday since the Town Hall closes at noon on Fridays. Other ideas included using pre-paid bags for collection service only, having Mayo approve cans sizes with a sticker, and eliminating mini service.

Walton reported on the Westport plastic bag ban. According to a Westport official, the new law was implemented seamlessly in March 2009. The Conservation officer has enforced a few complaints of violators since then. Knox will study the Westport ban further. Staff will send the Westport ordinance to members.

Goal setting was postponed until the next meeting, which is scheduled for May 6, 2010 in conference room B. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
TOWN COUNCIL
Ad hoc Committee on Regionalism
Thursday, March 4, 2010
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B
6:00 pm**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Members present: E. Paterson, G. Haddad, M. Hart, M. Lindsey
Staff Present: M. Capriola, Chief D. Dagon

2. Approval of January 26, 2010 Minutes

By consensus, the Committee approved the minutes from January 26, 2010; Paterson abstained.

3. Updates

Mr. Hart provided an update regarding the following initiatives:

- a. *WINCOG Regional Economic Development Plan* – The plan recommends establishing a regional economic development organization for the region. Those present discussed the pros and cons to marketing ourselves as a region and participating in economic development initiatives as a region.
- b. *Probate Court Consolidation* – Two potential locations (Mansfield, Tolland) have been identified, but both locations have space limitations. The location and name of the court for Mansfield-Tolland-Coventry-Willington has yet to be determined.
- c. *Ad hoc Regionalization Study Committee* – This group is looking at regionalization opportunities for grades PreK-8 for Mansfield-Ashford-Willington. The group's next meeting is March 18th. The superintendents have been meeting as a sub-committee and will be reporting back to the group as a whole
- d. *Governor's Council for Local Public Health Regionalization* – Mr. Hart is serving on this Committee and reported on its activities. The Committee has completed its report and submitted it to the Governor around the 1st of the year.

4. Police Services Study

Members and staff reviewed and discussed the six responses to the Town's police services study request for qualifications (RFQ). The Committee will interview five of the six respondents in early April.

5. Other Opportunities for Regional and Shared Services

Mr. Hart provided an update on MORE – the Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies Committee. Mr. Hart is serving on the town functions group of this Committee. The group is looking at opportunities for sharing services and the feasibility of sharing these services.

6. Adjournment

The members adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria E. Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
TOWN COUNCIL
Ad hoc Committee on Regionalism
Friday, April 16, 2010
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B
8:00am**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Members present: E. Paterson, G. Haddad, M. Hart, M. Lindsey
Staff Present: M. Capriola, C. Trahan

2. Approval of March 4, 2010 Minutes

Future agenda item.

3. Discussion of Regionalism Issues and Opportunities

The following individuals from Windham government were present: Neal Beets, Town Manager; Kevin Donahue, Council member; Ernie Eldridge, Mayor; Tom Pesce, Controller; Jeff Smith, Board of Finance. Elected officials and staff members present discussed challenges and opportunities for cooperative efforts between the two municipalities. Topics discussed (but not limited to): financial software system; sustainability coordinator; community development and housing; specialized services and professional staff. Elected officials requested N. Beets, M. Capriola and M. Hart to arrange for a joint Town/Gown meeting of the two communities and for staff to continue work on identifying potential opportunities for cooperative/shared services.

4. Adjournment

The members adjourned the meeting at 9:15am.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria E. Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager

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REC'D MAY 12

Careen Jennings
5 D Sycamore Dr.
Storrs, CT 06268
May 5, 2010

Mansfield Town Council
c/o Town Manager's Office
4 South Eagleville Road
Storrs, CT 06268

Item #12

Dear Town Council:

The wide and popular walkway on Separatist Road ends abruptly at South Eagleville Rd., across from Glen Ridge. But that doesn't stop the UConn runners. They just keep going, running at the side of South Eagleville, just as unconcerned about the heavy traffic two or three feet away from them as the drivers are unconcerned about the speed limit. This contest between car and runner gets more exciting in the early winter darkness.

Storrs has a deadly situation here, and the only surprise is that no one has yet been killed. But someone will be. Such games of chance will inevitably end in tragedy.

The need for the walkway to be extended from Separatist to Maple Road is critical. There is much that we cannot do to protect our young adults, but continuing the walkway is one safety measure that the town can take. It is a moral imperative.

Sincerely,



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10C Sycamore Drive
Storrs, CT 06268
Telephone: (860) 487-3966
Cell Phone: (860) 428-8135
E-Mail: melehy@uconn.edu

REC'D MAY 12

Item #13

May 8, 2010

Members of the Mansfield Town Council
C/o Town Manager's Office
4 S Eagleville Road
Storrs, CT 06268

To Whom It May Concern:

This is concerning the proposed walkway from Maple Road to Sycamore Drive on Rt. 275.

The proposed walkway is very important to many of the residents of Glen Ridge, who at present, if they want to walk on H 275, have to venture on the side of the highway, until they reach the walkway following Maple Road. Such a solution is quite risky, particularly that many drivers on Rt. 275 ignore the speed limit.

In conclusion, we would like to express our strong support for constructing this walkway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Catharina Melehy

Mahmoud Melehy

Catharina and Mahmoud Melehy

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Elizabeth A. Robinson, R.N., M.S., CPNP
5 C Sycamore Drive
Storrs, CT 06268
(860) 429-3206.

May 17, 2010

Mansfield Town Council
4 South Eagleville Road
Storrs, CT 06268

Dear members of the council

This letter is coming in support of the proposed grant being considered for the walkway extension from Maple Road to sycamore Drive. At present there is the established sidewalk from Maple road to Route 195 and the combination bike/pedestrian way along Separatist Road. There is a gaping quarter mile length without any such provision along the extremely busy route 275/South Eagleville Road.

In the years I have lived here in Glen Ridge, since November of 1988 I have seen the traffic multiply, the speed along the road do likewise, and have seen a number of auto accidents happen at the intersection of Sycamore Drive and 275. To my knowledge there have been no pedestrian injuries during that time, in itself surprising! I frequently need to drive along this mile to the town hall or gym, and notice people walking along the sides of the road; many are using canes or walkers, or even riding a 'three wheeler'.

The proposed walkway, on the south side of the road would also improve the visibility for those of us driving out of Sycamore Drive! The bank now requires that we edge out almost into 275 in order to see approaching traffic from the east; since many of us are aging our responses and reflexes may not be as sharp as they once were; with the speed of some traffic we are accidents waiting to happen. Since all of the requests for four-way stops signs or a traffic light at the intersection have been refused by the state's DOT, the proposed walkway would seem the best way to go.

Therefore, I would like to go on record as speaking in favor of the proposed grant; I will not be able to attend the meeting in person on the 24th.

Thank you for your consideration,
Betty Robinson /Elizabeth A. Robinson



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Town of Mansfield

Item #15

Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony

9:00 AM

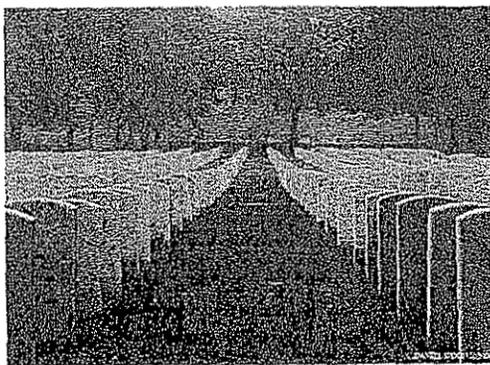
Monday, May 31st, 2010

Parade will travel from the intersection of Route 195 and Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield Center down Cemetery Road to the ceremony site at the new Mansfield Center Cemetery.

In the event of inclement weather, an abbreviated ceremony will be held in the Mansfield Middle School Gymnasium.

Let us remember the meaning of Memorial Day: to honor our fallen. On this day we seek to provide a sense of history to our citizens and ensure that younger generations understand the sacrifices made to preserve our liberties. On Memorial Day we stop and pay our respects for those who died protecting and preserving the freedoms we enjoy, for we owe those honored dead more than we can ever repay.

Please remember to thank those who have served our country.



"Your silent tents of green
We deck with fragrant flowers;
Yours has the suffering been,
The memory shall be ours."

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow -

*All veterans and active duty personnel are invited to march at the head of the parade.
We are honored to have our veterans and service personnel join us on
Bassetts Bridge Road at 8:30 AM on Memorial Day.*

Call 860-429-3336 for more information.

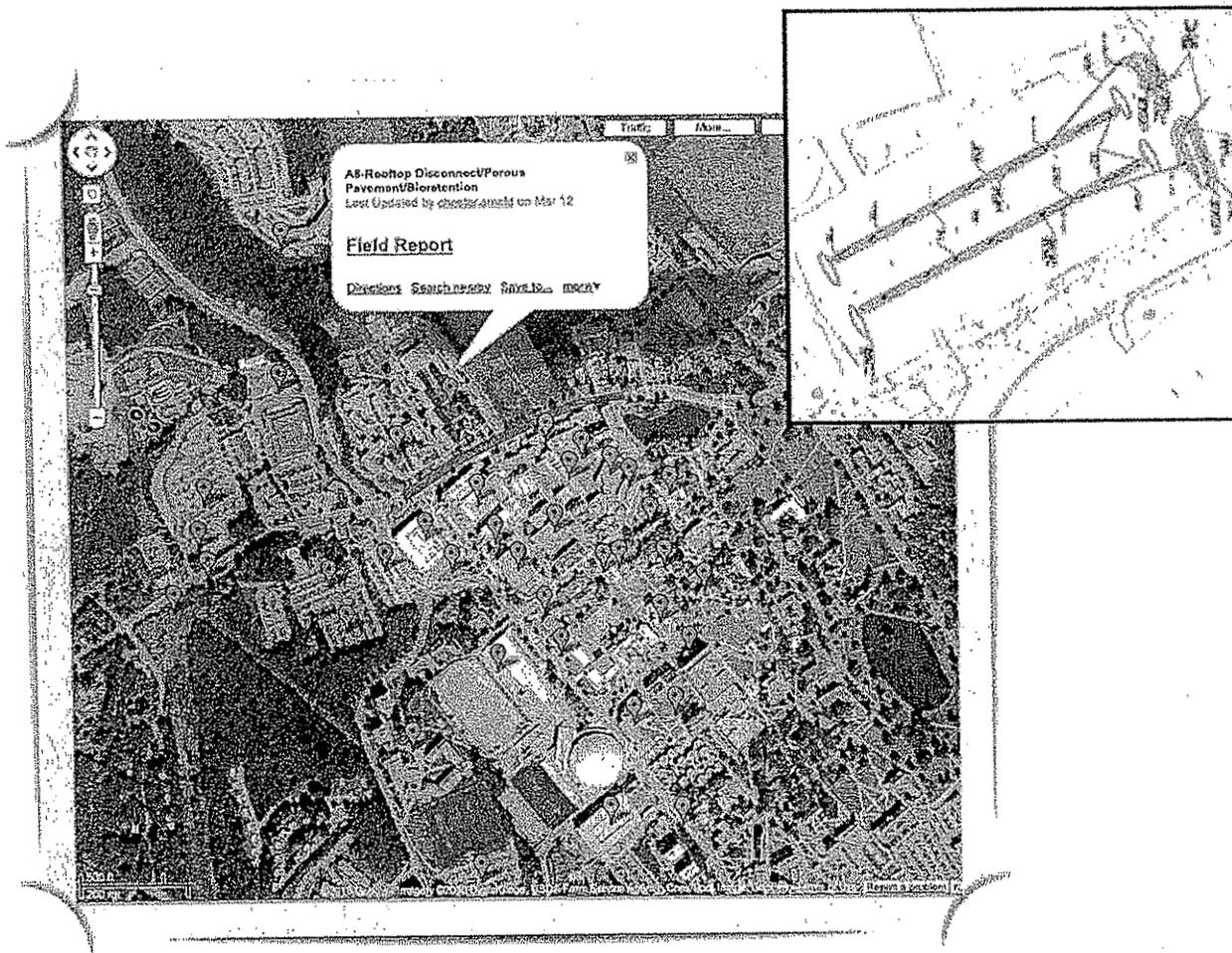
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Update and Discussion on the Impervious Cover TMDL Project

Friday, June 4, 2010

9:30 am to 12:00 noon

Rooms 207/208, W.B. Young Building



With the technical and field analysis portion of the project nearing completion, the Project Team will give a presentation summarizing the project approach, findings to date, and timeline for the future. This will be followed by a Question-and-Answer and Discussion session.

Project partners from the University, CT DEP, and the Town of Manchester will be present to comment and share their views.

The public is welcome!



University of
Connecticut



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Ronald F. Angelo
Deputy Commissioner

Item #17



State of Connecticut
Department of *Economic and*
Community Development

April 27, 2010

Mr. Matthew Hart
Town Manager
Town of Mansfield
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268-2599

Dear Mr. Hart:

RE: PILOT Program FY 2009-2010

I am pleased to inform you that your application for Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) under Section 8-216(9b) of the CGS has been approved in the amount of \$42,764.

If you have any questions, please call Jeri Fazzalano at (860) 270-8164.

Sincerely,

Ron Angelo, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development

JF

Enclosure

cc: Mansfield Housing Authority
Elizabeth C. Patterson, Mayor

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and promote
cities as centers
of opportunity,
leadership, and
governance.



**National League
of Cities**

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James C. Hunt
Councilmember
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Executive Director

Donald J. Bonit

May 03, 2010

REC'D MAY 12

Item #18

Matthew Hart - Town Manager
Town of Mansfield
4 S Eagleville Rd
Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268-2574

First Renewal Notice

Dear Town Manager Hart:

Thank you for your continued support and involvement as a member city of the National League of Cities we are proud to serve your municipality and be your professional home. Your patronage has continued to make our organization a powerful force especially in 2009 as we represented the interest of cities in the debates that led to the extraordinary American Recovery and Reinvestment Act legislation.

In 2009, your membership also allowed us to break new ground, and together, we were able to successfully accomplish the following:

- § Saved residents of 350 NLC member cities more than \$1 million on their prescription drugs through the NLC Prescription Discount Card program
- § Saved cities an average of 15% on purchase goods and services through the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance.
- § Engaged more than 1000 city officials through NLC's Constituency Groups by providing networking opportunities and information sharing, support for NLC's 2009 legislative priorities, and policy resolutions that were adopted by NLC.
- § Held a successful Green Cities Conference in Portland, Ore., bringing together over 400 elected officials, municipal staff, and leading experts from around the country to explore various aspects of sustainability including energy issues, green buildings and operations, climate change and community designs.

In 2010, we are poised to deliver even more value for your membership dues!

- § Watch for increased focus on securing additional federal support for economic recovery and jobs creation in our communities, as well as promoting federal investments in the nation's transportation system, local energy efficiency innovations, and efforts to strengthen and stabilize the nation's housing market.
- § Watch for enhanced webinars for city officials on how to promote financial literacy and neighborhood revitalization in cooperation with private sector partners.
- § Watch for the launch of our new robust website complete with the myriad of resources you currently appreciate, and a host of new features for you to use.
- § Watch for continued development of deeper programs of work on community development and infrastructure, sustainability, finance an economic development, and immigrant integration.

Past Presidents: John DeStefano, Jr., Mayor, New Haven, Connecticut • Brian J. O'Neill, Councilman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Directors: Ulysses Z. Addison, Jr., Councilmember, Baton Rouge, Louisiana • David Baker, Mayor, Kenmore, Washington • Geoffrey C. Beckwith, Executive Director, Massachusetts Municipal Association • M. Margaret Bates, Commissioner, Lauderdale, Florida • Charles A. Blango, Alderman, New Haven, Connecticut • William C. "Bill" Brooke, Mayor, Belle Isle, Florida • Kenneth H. Bullock, Executive Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns • Jim Byard, Jr., Mayor, Prattville, Alabama • Gary W. Campbell, City Director/Vice Mayor, Fort Smith, Arkansas • Sheri Capehart, Councilmember, Arlington, Texas • Nancy G. Carter, Council Member, Charlotte, North Carolina • Brad Cole, Mayor, Carbondale, Illinois • Sandra Colvin-Roy, Council Member, Minneapolis, Minnesota • John F. Cook, Mayor, El Paso, Texas • Mildred C. Crump, Council President, Newark, New Jersey • Joe Davis, Sr., Alderman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin • Gretchen Driskell, Mayor, Saline, Michigan • Larry G. Frang, Executive Director, Illinois Municipal League • Dan Furbado, Councilmember, Campbell, California • John A. Garner, Jr., Executive Director, Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities • Paul M. Gresham, Councilmember, Centerville, Ohio • Milton Hair, Executive Director, Municipal Association of South Carolina • Rep Hankins, Council Member, Trotwood, Ohio • Terry B. Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem, La Quinta, California • Edna Branch Jackson, Mayor Pro-Tem/Alderman at Large, Savannah, Georgia • Dennis Kavanaugh, Councilmember, Mesa, Arizona • Greg Lemke, Council Member, Moorhead, Minnesota • George Lewis, Executive Director, Mississippi Municipal League • Myron Lowery, Council Member, Memphis, Tennessee • Michael McCauley, Executive Director, League of Oregon Cities • James F. Miller, Executive Director, League of Minnesota Cities • Mark Mitchell, Councilmember, Tempe, Arizona • Garret L. Nanceaux, Mayor, Caldwell, Idaho • Ron Natinsky, Councilmember, Dallas, Texas • Laura W. Padgett, Councilmember, Wilmington, North Carolina • Randall W. B. Purvis, Council Member, Colorado Springs, Colorado • Ed P. Reyes, Councilmember, Los Angeles, California • Gene Schuller, Councilmember, Chicago, Illinois • John Sping, Mayor, Quincy, Illinois • Sharyn Y. Tallman, Councilor, Parkersburg, West Virginia

Town of Mansfield

Please check our website www.nlc.org <<http://www.nlc.org>> for updates and opportunities to get involved. We are confident that NLC leadership will continue to make strategic decisions in the face of rapidly changing technology, critical funding issues, and complex changes in this environment.

Should you have any questions about your membership dues, please contact Member Relations at memberservices@nlc.org <<mailto:memberservices@nlc.org>> or 202-626-3100. We are counting on your support.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Borut
Executive Director

Past Presidents: John DeStefano, Jr., Mayor, New Haven, Connecticut • Brian J. O'Neill, Councilman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Ulysses Z. Addison, Jr., Councilmember, Baton Rouge, Louisiana • David Baker, Mayor, Kenmore, Washington • Geoffrey C. Beckwith, Executive Director, Massachusetts Municipal Association • M. Margaret Bates, Commissioner, Loudenshill, Florida • Charles A. Blango, Alderman, New Haven, Connecticut • William G. "Bill" Brooke, Mayor, Belle Isle, Florida • Kenneth H. Bullock, Executive Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns • Jim Byard, Jr., Mayor, Prattville, Alabama • Gary W. Campbell, City Director/Vice Mayor, Fort Smith, Arkansas • Sheri Capshart, Councilmember, Arlington, Texas • Nancy C. Carter, Council Member, Charlotte, North Carolina • Brad Cole, Mayor, Carbondale, Illinois • Sandra Colvin-Roy, Council Member, Minneapolis, Minnesota • John F. Cook, Mayor, El Paso, Texas • Mildred C. Crump, Council President, Newark, New Jersey • Joe Davis, Sr., Alderman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin • Gretchen Drakell, Mayor, Safford, Michigan • Larry G. Frang, Executive Director, Illinois Municipal League • Dan Furtado, Councilmember, Campbell, California • John A. Garner, Jr., Executive Director, Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities • Paul M. Gresham, Councilmember, Centerville, Ohio • Miriam Hair, Executive Director, Municipal Association of South Carolina • Rap Hankins, Council Member, Trotwood, Ohio • Terry B. Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem, La Quinta, California • Edna Branch Jackson, Mayor Pro-Tem/Alderman at-Large, Savannah, Georgia • Dennis Kavanaugh, Councilmember, Mesa, Arizona • Greg Lemke, Council Member, Moorhead, Minnesota • George Lewis, Executive Director, Mississippi Municipal League • Myron Lowery, Council Member, Memphis, Tennessee • Michael McCauley, Executive Director, League of Oregon Cities • James F. Miller, Executive Director, League of Minnesota Cities • Mark Mitchell, Councilmember, Tempe, Arizona • Garret L. Nancolas, Mayor, Caldwell, Idaho • Ron Natinsky, Councilmember, Dallas, Texas • Laura W. Padgett, Councilmember, Wilmington, North Carolina • Randall W. B. Purvis, Council Member, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Conn., Saturday, May 1, 2010

Mansfield taxes not likely to decrease

By CAITLIN M. DINEEN
Chronicle Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — If the town council's adopted budget is approved by residents, taxpayers can expect the town's current mill rate to stay the same in fiscal year 2011.

Originally, under Town Manager Matthew Hart's proposed budget, Mansfield's mill rate would have decreased from 25.71 mills to 25.62 mills.

However, budget increases — which were mostly pushed through by Democratic councilors — will mean the mill rate would stay put next fiscal year.

At a rate of 25.71 mills, the owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$5,142 in taxes.

How that impacts individual taxpayers is unknown because tax bills are dependent on whether a property's value increased or decreased during the town's recent revaluation.

Voters will be able to either pass or reject the town's budget on Tuesday, May 11, during the town's annual budget meeting in the Mansfield Middle School auditorium at 7 p.m.

Town council's fiscal year 2010-11 budget, which was adopted April 19 by councilors during a special meeting, included an increase of \$89,000 to the general government portion of the budget and \$1 million to the capital projects fund.

Increases approved by councilors include creating a transportation coordinator in town, increasing the number of hours for the senior center social worker and increasing the town's transfer to the capital non-recurring fund.

Under the plan, the town's proposed town/education budget — which includes general government, Mansfield board of education and Regional School District 19 appropriations — amounts to \$43,596,285.

When broken down, the combined budget is as follows:

- General government: \$13,113,895.
- Mansfield board of education: \$20,588,160.
- Regional School District 19: \$9,924,230.

The District 19 budget will be voted on separately during the district's May 4 referendum.

Voting will take place between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. in the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, as well as at polling places in Ashford and Willington.

In addition to approving general government increases, councilors voted unanimously in favor of adding \$1 million to the town's capital projects fund for open space acquisition.

This increase brings that budget to \$20,061,420.

The budget is being financed by nearly \$17.6 million in state and federal funds for the proposed Storrs Center Project, according to town officials.

The remaining money for the capital fund, totaling \$365,045, would come from bonds, other state grants and town-contributed money.

According to town officials, the capital fund would pay for community development, public works, facilities management, general government, community services and public safety.

The proposed capital and non-recurring fund — which funds one-time purchases or expenditures — is \$967,545. That reflects an increase of \$67,500 that was approved by councilors April 19.

When all three budgets — the town/education budget and the two capital fund budgets — are combined, they amount to approximately \$63.65 million in municipal spending.

The three budgets are presented as separate questions to voters, so it is possible for some budgets to fail while others pass.

Republican councilors were against most of the proposed increases, but they are the minority party on the town's governing body.

Republicans Meredith Lindsey, Denise Keane and Christopher Paulhus said it was time to be critical of government spending, since financial forecasts paint a bleak picture for the next several years.

"We believe this is the time to begin diminishing our budget and give our taxpayers time to regroup, their families' budgets, while preparing for what the town will be asking of them in the next few years," said Lindsey, Keane, and Paulhus in a letter. "This is not the right economic time to be growing our budget larger."

5 p.m. to midnight

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Editor: S/T

Anything worth having doesn't come easy is one of many versions of a famous quote. This certainly applies to the Storrs Downtown project. The new downtown is certainly worth haying on so many levels and it hasn't been easy.

Scores of local residents, mostly volunteers assisted by great leadership from the Town of Mansfield and the Mansfield Downtown Partnership have toiled relentlessly for more than eight years to develop the right plan for

a downtown.

Mansfield residents have also overwhelming showed their support for the project through these eight years.

Let's not forget how far this project has come, how many obstacles have been overcome, how well planned it is.

Don't lose sight of the prize, so close, just a little more and then we all will have limitless opportunity to celebrate the smart growth of Mansfield's downtown at Storrs.

Tom Birkenholz
Storrs

Editor: 517

Mansfield taxpayers vote on the town budget Tuesday at a town meeting.

Here are reasons I'll vote against the budget:

1. There are no reductions in spending.
2. There is \$175,000 for a downtown that residents have never had a chance to approve or disapprove.
3. The school budget is full of hidden items that should be in the general fund.
4. Taxes will increase.

Council members say that because taxpayers approve the budget, they must also approve of the Downtown Storrs project. Have your say on the downtown project. If you don't want it, vote no on the budget.

Keep in mind that in Mansfield your vote is only advisory. Per the charter the town council sets the budget. The voter gets one chance to voice an opinion. The budget then goes back to the council to do as it desires.

Its desire is increased spending. The town manager presented his budget in March. Last week, the council finished the budget with added spending beyond the manager's increases.

Don't be worried that a no vote will affect the school budget. The school budget has items that belong in our town budget, such as maintenance for the town hall, library and community center.

We've been told that if we invest in co-energy, solar panels and middle school conversion our energy bill would decrease. Our electric has increased \$82,000 and the overall energy budget is up \$23,000.

We've been told the community center would be self supporting. We, taxpayers, fund about \$400,000 per year for it, about half a mill per residence.

As I've stated before, our fire department budget is greater than Coventry, Willington, Ashford, South Windham, North Windham and Windham Center combined. Why?

There are other spending issues that may concern you. Visit www.savemansfieldct.com for more.

Mike Sikoski
Storrs

Letters to the editor

Editor:

5/8

Mansfield council members have accepted a budget. The mill rate will be exactly the same as it was last year. That sounds pretty good but for two things.

First, your tax bill will depend on the change in your property assessment (this is a revaluation year). If your assessment has increased, you will pay more money.

Second, just because the mill rate is the same, don't think that your town government has tightened its belt.

Your town government continues to spend, only now they are spending on credit. All that you will see in the budget is the monthly minimum payment.

Does anybody remember the fiscal crisis this country started two years ago? Did excessive credit have anything to do with that or with the

housing crisis we are still experiencing? Town management has convinced our council that Mansfield can handle more debt. Well, take a look at the payments that we will have to make a few years from now.

This year we are spending federal stimulus money that we will not get next year.

Taxes will be needed to cover this.

Up goes your tax bill. Let's hope we all get big raises to pay the bill. Too bad for all the seniors on fixed incomes who want to call this town home.

Go to vote at the town meeting Tuesday. Don't count on waiting for the referendum to vote. The people who have been doing the petition to referendum just may not do it this year.

For more of what the town may not be telling you, visit www.savemansfield.com.

Bonnie Sikorski
Storrs

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Editor: 5/10

Let's be fair and share all of the facts in reference to Elizabeth Wassmundt's letter to the editor on May 6.

At the "Chili Fest," each participant pays \$5 at the door. This fee covers the cost of the items that are purchased for the event. They spent \$52.98 at BJ's and \$45 in prize certificates at Margaretville's for the event, but they do so knowing that they will take in money to cover these minimal costs.

The event took in \$160 and they now have a \$62.02 surplus. I have met these employees at the Town of Mansfield. They come to work every day because they love their job and they enjoy serving the people of this fine community.

In this time of economic turmoil and the uncertainty of job security, it is a pleasure to witness comradeship and positive moral. In my opinion, Wassmundt should be grateful to these public service employees who go above and beyond their expected duties.

Diane Handfield
North Windham

Editor:

Isn't it refreshing when you enter a business establishment and you can sense that the people are happy with their work and like their fellow workers? The Town of Mansfield employees have several gatherings each year, including the Chili-Fest. They pay to participate and there is always money left over after expenses — including gift certificates as prizes. Most of these food events are specifically raising money for charities and food is generously donated by staff.

It's too bad that Betty Wassmundt feels that she paid for this. Why don't you just get over it, and post your own salary on your web site for us all to see?

A happy taxpayer in Mansfield,

Mary Campbell Hirsch
Mansfield

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Meeting might not be budget's last stand

By CAITLIN M. DINEEN
Chronicle Staff Writer 5/10

MANSFIELD — Tuesday is decision day for Mansfield residents who are encouraged to attend the town's annual budget meeting to vote on the proposed \$33.7 million spending plan.

The meeting is in the Mansfield Middle School at 7 p.m.

Tuesday's town meeting, though, isn't necessarily the final chance to decide a budget. Residents have 21 days after Tuesday's meeting to petition the budget to a referendum.

Signatures from 2 percent of the registered voters in town need to be collected in order to successfully petition a budget to a yet-to-be-scheduled referendum.

The plan includes the general government budget and the Mansfield board of education budget.

Under Town Manager Matthew

Hart's first proposed budget, Mansfield's mill rate would have decreased, from 25.71 mills to 25.62 mills. However, budget increases — which were mostly pushed through by Democratic councilors — will mean the mill rate will stay put next fiscal year.

At a rate of 25.71 mills, the owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$5,142 in taxes. How that impacts individual taxpayers is unknown because tax bills are dependent on whether a property's value increased or decreased during the town's recent revaluation.

The town council's fiscal year 2010-11 budget, which was adopted April 19 by councilors during a special meeting, included an increase of \$89,000 to the general government portion of the budget and \$1 million to the capital projects fund.

With that increase, the proposed

general government budget is \$13,113,895.

The town's education budget is \$20,588,160.

Additionally, Mansfield's budget includes the town's \$9,924,230 appropriation for Regional School District 19, which funds E.O. Smith High School in Storrs.

That spending was approved May 4 during a three-town referendum in Mansfield, Ashford and Willington.

In addition to approving general government increases, councilors voted unanimously in favor of adding \$1 million to the town's capital projects fund for open space acquisition.

This increase brings that budget to \$20,061,420.

The budget is being financed by nearly \$17.6 million in state and federal funds for the proposed Storrs Center project, according to town officials.

The remaining money for the capital fund, totaling \$365,045, would come from bonds, other state grants and town-contributed money.

According to town officials, the capital fund would pay for community development, public works, facilities management, general government, community services and public safety.

The proposed capital and non-recurring fund — which funds one-time purchases or expenditures — is \$967,545. That reflects an increase of \$67,500 that was approved by councilors April 19.

When all three budgets — the town/education budget and the two capital fund budgets — are combined, they amount to approximately \$63.65 million in municipal spending. The budgets are presented as separate questions to voters, so it is possible for some budgets to fail while others pass.

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Council approves parking ordinance

By CAITLIN M. DINEEN S/||
Chronicle Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — A controversial parking ordinance — which angered several residents and University of Connecticut students alike — was approved by the town council Monday night.

The "Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property" was approved unanimously by the seven councilors who were present after it went to public hearing twice.

Both times, residents, landlords and students said the ordinance was too extreme and requested councilors to vote against it.

Councilors Peter Kochenburger, Meredith Lindsey, Antonia Moran, Christopher Paulhus, William Ryan and Carl Schaefer approved the ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad also voted in favor of the ordinance.

Mayor Elizabeth "Betsy" Paterson and Councilor Denise Keane were not at

Monday's meeting.

The proposal targets one-, two- and three-unit apartment complexes to ensure a parking plan is created and adhered to at each site.

Under the proposal, landlords must provide each unit with a minimum of two parking spaces and maximum of six designated parking spaces available.

Spaces must be clearly defined and on a site and spaces should not require a motorist to reverse out of the spot and directly onto the road.

Town officials said the ordinance aims to reduce blighted, congested and unsafe conditions in town.

Along with the proposal comes a cost to landlords.

A \$35 application fee — and a potential \$90 enforcement fine — is attached to the ordinance, said town officials.

Resident and landlord Chris Kueffner told councilors Monday night he hoped

(Mansfield, Page 4)

Mansfield Town Council OKs parking ordinance

(Continued from Page 1)

they would thoroughly review the ordinance before taking action on it.

"Saying it's about safety, when it's about aesthetics is not going to solve anything," he said.

According to Kueffner, councilors should promote neighborhood outreach and education before creating another rule in town.

"Rules are not going to be the answer," he said, adding it's about changing behavior.

Students who spoke against the ordinance during the council's April 26 meeting said it would be "detrimental" to student-renters and costs associated with the ordinance would be passed on to renters.

UConn's Undergraduate Student Government signed a resolution against the ordinance.

Despite pleas from the public, councilors said they thought education was important, but the ordinance would prove beneficial.

"We are educating the new freshmen that come to town," said Paulhus. "But it doesn't seem to be doing much."

Schaefer agreed and said, every four years, a new group of student-renters come to Mansfield and education can only do so much.

Moran said she thought the ordinance would be an effective way of controlling excessive parking on Mansfield roads during the annual Spring Weekend celebration.

UConn's Spring Weekend is held every April the weekend before the final week of classes at the university.

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Letters to the Editor 5/11

murdered outside the Student Union and an undergraduate is punched so senseless that he ultimately dies? And all because students like to get drunk?

You bet I wouldn't. Spring Weekend does neither UConn nor its alumni proud. Indeed, in order to galvanize the administration into ending this expensive, useless, dangerous and degrading folly, I would suggest all those who contribute philanthropically to UConn cease their donations until this Spring Weekend nonsense stops.

Does UConn want to continue to be known for its educational quality, its successful sports teams and its drunken debauches? So stop Spring Weekend already. There's nothing like a punch in the purse to give a task force a little backbone.

Matthew N. Proser
Storrs

Editor:

On May 3, Howard Raphaelson stated his, and I believe Mansfield management's, opinion, of a few residents, myself included. Howard states that "at the last meeting they spoke at great length." I guess he missed the five-minute speaking limit council imposes on the public.

The mayor allows additional time to speakers who support her issues but keeps an eye on the clock for others.

For a long time, no one in Mansfield has looked into how things work. Freedom of Information changes make it easier now to access information. Mansfield has chosen to still make getting information challenging. Example: I visited a neighboring town to request a copy of their town manager's contract. They made me a copy and I was out in less than three minutes.

The same request in Mansfield takes a formal and expensive process. What took minutes in another town would take weeks in Mansfield.

A few of us have decided that we would put forth the effort to inform residents of things they should know. Mostly how tax dollars are being used. One of us received a physical threat from a town employee. Untrue rumors are spread about us. We are unduly mistreated by various departments. We intend to continue bringing information so citizen's decisions are informed decisions.

Personally, I've raised questions about town policies regarding personal use of town equipment, cars, plows, phones, computers etc. To get this information I must make an FOI request and follow the burdensome process. If Raphaelson has a concern about individual issues we raise, he should feel free to address them. He should not attack the person raising the issue. If you want to support the town regarding the concerns we raise, do so. That's your right. Don't attack my rights!

Mike Sikoski
Storrs

Editor:

So University of Connecticut President Michael Hogan is forming a task force to review Spring Weekend. Ho hum, what else is new? The only way to deal with Spring Weekend is to get rid of it — forthwith.

It adds nothing to the quality of education UConn students or their parents pay for, nor does it add anything of significance to the UConn university experience.

Moreover, as long as university officialdom continues to sanction Spring Weekend, whether "safe" venues are provided by the university, or not, or whether students other than UConn undergraduates are part of the crowd, or not, the university, simply by validating the concept of Spring Weekend becomes willy-nilly complicitous in whatever mayhem occurs.

This year's mayhem included a death. If I were a parent, would I send my son or daughter to a university where a football player is

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Editor:

I write in response to Betty Wassmundt's letter of Friday April 9. In this letter Wassmundt states the following:

1. "The Town of Mansfield is poorly managed and you can't trust the information you are given."

Betty and her little pals have filed more than 100 freedom of information requests over the last year at a cost in the hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost staff time and legal fees. The apparent result from all this time and money is nothing.

No special favors, no criminal activity, no smoking guns, not even a really good screw-up. So why does she do it? It makes her feel important, I guess.

I wish the town could find a way to help Betty feel important at a lower cost.

The fact is Betty Wassmundt, and her pals have been on a campaign of intimidation and character assassination for the past three years against the employees of the Town of Mansfield. Unfortunately, not one article, not one statement, is not tainted by half-truths or imply wrong.

he greatest tragedy in all this is that the Mansfield Town Council has repeatedly failed to stand up against this bullying of its staff. These attacks are political in nature aimed at the elected officials using the staff as pawns, and must be addressed in the political arena.

The purpose of a manager form of government is to separate politics from day-to-day administration.

Problems with staff, if they exist, are to be handled by the town manager.

Problems with personal attacks upon the professional staff must be answered by the elected officials. Make no mistake, this consistent drumbeat of character assassination is demoralizing and has a direct impact on productivity.

Jeffrey H. Smith
Willimantic

Editor:

With Spring Weekend at the University of Connecticut continuing to consume my thoughts, I'll try to examine what's troubling me, and perhaps many others.

The university has a "tradition" of Spring Weekend being a time when some students and friends are allowed, and even expected, to exhibit disgusting, sometimes life-threatening behavior.

Police surveillance and emergency medical assistance is needed. The costs are daunting as are the prospects of a tragedy. No amount

Letters to the Editor 5/12

of recompense can compensate for a life that might have been.

My question is "why?"

Why is this "tradition" continuing, growing more uncontrollable through the years, knowing the risks to the health and safety of students?

With the expertise of university and town officials and, perhaps, members of the community, surely there must be a way to bring what was a reasonable party time back to a reasonable status again. As it is now, I feel the image of the university is tarnished, as is the image of the town.

I'm hoping there is a way the university, the town, and committed community members can work to change this. Change to have a celebration of the upcoming end of the school year, to set limits that must be met, and to acknowledge, rather than degrade, the great amount of talent and ability that is there in the university student body.

Marilyn Gerling
Storrs/Mansfield

Editor:

I would like to respond to Howard Raphaelson's letter of May 3.

Raphaelson is opposed to residents of Mansfield exercising their rights to criticize town government as well as their rights to get information via the Freedom of Information Act. Since I was one of the people he chose to single out, let me explain my position.

Two years ago I attended a town council meeting and heard comments that did not seem correct. After contacting several departments, I was given requested information from the town of Mansfield which showed the comments were indeed incorrect.

In the process of researching this information, other questions arose. These questions led to other questions. Up until February 2009 the town was very forthcoming with information by providing copies and details.

Then the town changed its position and now charges for copies and requires residents to file requests via a form. Accepting these new rules, I have pursued information from the town.

Yes, I've filed many requests for information, as is my right to do. It is through these requests I have discovered many abuses and frivolous spending perpetrated by the town.

Yes, I do speak before the council, as is my right to do. I point out many of these abuses

which the town council usually ignores and continues to perpetrate on the townspeople of Mansfield.

I have attended the majority of town council meetings and many committee meetings in an attempt to be informed. Raphaelson has attended very few meetings, generally to applaud the performance of town council or management.

I would suggest Raphaelson and his free spending cohorts in the Democratic town committee listen to the information discovered through the Freedom of Information Act and use it to reduce frivolous spending and benefit all taxpayers in Mansfield.

Ric Hossack
Storrs

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Mansfield OKs spending plan, 188-39

(Continued from Page 1)

Mansfield OKs spending plan by wide margin

By **CAITLIN M. DINEEN**
Chronicle Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — The combined \$33.7 million town/education budget was approved Tuesday night during the annual town meeting for budget consideration.

The fiscal year 2010-11 spending plan was approved via paper ballot with 188 votes in favor of the budget and 39 voting against it.

With 10,939 registered voters in town, that means voter turnout at the town meeting Tuesday was approximately 2.18 percent.

The meeting — which took place in a half-full auditorium at Mansfield Middle School — lasted approximately an hour-and-a-half.

Although the plan was approved Tuesday, Mansfield's budget won't be official until next month.

Residents have 21 days after Tuesday's meeting to petition the budget to a referendum.

Signatures from 2 percent — approximately 200 — of the registered voters in town need to be collected in order to successfully petition a budget to a yet-to-be-scheduled referendum.

Under the approved spending plan, the town's current mill rate of 25.71 will remain the same next year.

At a rate of 25.71 mills, the owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$5,142 in

MANSFIELD	
YES	NO
188	39

taxes. How that impacts individual taxpayers is unknown because tax bills are dependent on whether a property's value increased or decreased during the recent revaluation.

During the meeting, only one motion was made to change the proposed budget.

Roger Roberge Jr. recommended reducing the board of education budget by \$200,000. Initially, he moved to cut three of the four positions being reinstated at Mansfield Middle School.

However, motions can only impact the bottom line of a budget, said meeting moderator Carol Pelligrine.

Roberge's motion failed due to a lack of a second on it.

The combined budget was 0.8 percent larger than current spending.

With voter approval, the general government budget for fiscal year 2010-11 is \$13,113,895 (a 2.1-percent increase) and the Mansfield board of education budget is \$20,588,160 (a slight decrease by \$7,410).

Additionally, Mansfield's bud-

get includes the town's \$9,924,230 appropriation for Regional School District 19, which funds E.O. Smith High School in Storr. That figure was \$587 less than this year.

That spending plan was approved May 4 during a three-town referendum in Mansfield, Ashford and Wallington.

In addition to approving general government increases, residents voted in favor of a \$20.06 million capital projects fund.

That budget is being financed by nearly \$17.6 million in state and federal funds for the proposed Storr Center project, according to town officials.

Because those state and federal grants have

already been accepted by councilors, that portion of the capital fund was not up for discussion Tuesday.

The remaining money for the capital fund, totaling \$365,045, would come from bonds, other state grants and town-contributed money.

According to town officials, the capital fund would pay for community development, public works, facilities management, general government, community services and public safety.

The proposed capital and nonrecurring fund — which funds one-time purchases or expenses — is \$967,545.

When all three budgets — the town/education budget and the two capital fund budgets

— are combined, they amount to approximately \$63.65 million in municipal spending.

Although town officials said they were pleased the budget passed, the approved budget was not supported by all councilors.

Republican councilors Meredith Lindsey, Christopher Paulus and Denise Kearney opposed the budget based on the amount of municipal spending.

Lindsey told voters Tuesday night she and her fellow minority representatives thought town officials should have reduced expenditures because there is not enough funding coming into the town to support them.

"This is not the time to increase the tax burden on our residents," she said.

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(Mansfield, Page 4)

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Mansfield festival garners award

MANSFIELD — The Connecticut Main Street Center has announced its 2010 Awards of Excellence recipients and among the honorees is the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Inc.

The partnership received the 2010 Award of Excellence for "Special Event" for its annual "Festival on the Green."

Now in its seventh year, the festival is a community celebration that draws thousands of residents and visitors to the site of the future Storrs Center each September.

The Connecticut Main Street Center supports 32 member communities and seven designated Main Street management programs by providing training for its partners and by advocating for positive changes in Connecticut's diverse downtowns.

It supports community and economic development with an emphasis on historic preservation.

According to the Connecticut Main Street Center, the Awards of Excellence program "annually celebrates and communicates the most successful and innovative efforts in main street revitalization in Connecticut."

The program recognizes contributions in areas such as image enhancement, retail promotion, special events, and community-consensus building (for which the Partnership received an award in 2008).

In addition to Mansfield, the other Connecticut communities recognized this year were New London, Simsbury, Waterbury, Bridgeport, Middletown and the Upper Albany Main Street District in Hartford.

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership's "Festival on the Green" was designed with many of these themes in mind.

In 2003, the partnership's advertising and promotion committee began the festival as a means of promoting Storrs Center and drawing visitors to the existing commercial district.

Storrs Center is a \$220 million retail/housing project aimed at creating a college town atmosphere in the University of Connecticut community.

The committee planned the festival to be a community celebration, inviting representatives from the town and UConn to assist in planning.

Over the years, the event has grown significantly to include more than 80 activity booths, food booths, musical performances and the "Celebrate Mansfield Parade."

"On behalf of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors and the Festival on the Green Committee, we are extremely honored to receive this recognition from the Connecticut Main Street Center," Mansfield Mayor Elizabeth "Betsy" Paterson, chairman of the festival committee, said.

"The festival could not take place without the hundreds of volunteers who participate in the planning and running of this community event. We thank them for their efforts and making the Festival such a success."

Plans are under way for the seventh annual festival, which will be held on Sunday, Sept. 12.

This year's celebration will feature a performance by the Shaboo All Stars with guests.

For more information on Connecticut Main Street Center, visit www.ctmainstreet.org. For more information about the Festival on the Green, visit www.mansfieldct.org/fog.html or contact the Mansfield Downtown Partnership at (860) 429-2740 or mdp@mansfieldct.org.

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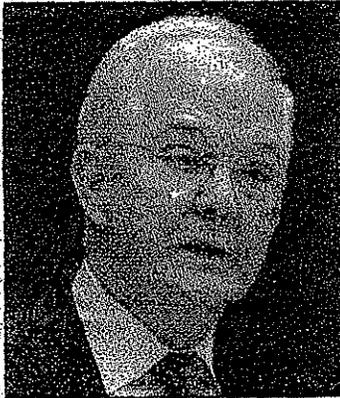
Officials surprised over UC president's departure ^{5/13}

By MIKE SAVINO
Chronicle Staff Writer

STORRS — A day after learning that University of Connecticut President Michael Hogan will be leaving his position, local officials joined state leaders in saying they were both surprised and disappointed.

"Frankly, I was stunned," Mansfield Deputy Mayor Greg Haddad said when he heard Hogan will leave his post June 30 to take the same position at the University of Illinois.

Haddad and Mansfield Mayor Elizabeth "Betsy" Paterson both said they were disappointed because UConn and Mansfield



Chronicle file photo
Hogan

had maintained a good relationship during Hogan's three years as president.

"I think Mike Hogan understood the value of the sense of community for the university," Paterson said.

Mansfield Town Manager Matt Hart agreed, saying his office and Hogan's administration maintained a "good working relationship from a town-university relations perspective."

Mansfield's officials echoed remarks made by Gov. M. Jodi Rell, who said she was disappointed Hogan was leaving after only three years in the position.

"We had assumed President Hogan's commitment to UConn was a long-term one," said Rell.

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Officials surprised by early departure

(Continued from Page 1)

who — as governor — is also president of UConn's Board of Trustees. "It should have been."

Trustees Chairman Lawrence McHugh could not be reached for comment this morning.

Rell said Hogan's decision to leave, though, provided the school and the state a chance to seek a president "who will commit himself or herself — heart and soul — for many years to our flagship state university."

Haddad agreed on the importance of a president holding the position for a long tenure, as fostering a relationship and understanding of local issues can take time.

"I think sometimes it can take a year" to fully grasp the Mansfield-UConn relationship, Paterson added.

Haddad said a UConn president needs to

experience some issues, specifically Spring Weekend, first-hand to fully grasp their importance.

"It's difficult to fully grasp the problem without experiencing it," he said.

Hogan, in the past, had toured the popular off-campus party spots off Hunting Lodge Road during Spring Weekends.

Rell said she will be "calling for the immediate formation" of a search committee, which will include school and state officials, as well as representatives from businesses and the public.

Paterson, who sat on the last search committee, said she hopes the committee will pick a candidate who makes "town-gown relationships" a priority.

"The presence of the university in the middle of Mansfield is huge," Haddad added, agree-

ing with Paterson in hoping the relationship helps in the search.

Both said UConn can play a major role in some of the town's development plans and initiatives, but Paterson also said the town benefits from the support of local residents.

But both also understood the relationship is just one facet of running UConn and agreed a candidate would also need other attributes to get the job.

Haddad said the next president will need to be a "strong fiscal manager," while Paterson said any candidate will need to be able to handle numerous issues, as Hogan did.

She said Hogan took the positions at a time when a tough economy created many problems for the state university and also worked to improve the school's health center in Farmington.

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Storrs Farmers Market back at Town Hall May 8

by: Submitted Press Release Saturday, May 8th, 2010



Everything at the Storrs Farmers Market is Connecticut grown and picked fresh, including greens and herbs. Photo © by Brenda Sullivan.

Storrs Farmers Market begins its 16th season on Saturday, May 8. Open every Saturday from 3 to 6 p.m., the market is set up in the Mansfield town hall parking lot on Storrs Road (Route 195).

The market is within walking distance of the Mansfield Community Center, UConn and several WRTD bus stops.

At Storrs Farmers Market, everything is Connecticut grown and produced. In fact, the average distance from farm to the market is just 17 miles. Compare that to the national average of 1,300 miles that food travels from farm to supermarket. And the food at Storrs Farmers Market is picked when it's perfectly ripe and sold fresh.

Storrs Farmers Market is the area's only year-round market. And because everything sold at the market is grown and produced locally, the offerings change throughout the year. During Storrs Farmers Market's 16th year, visitors can expect to find all-natural beef, heritage breed pork and lamb, raw milk, and goats' milk and cheeses along with an array of vegetables and fruits, including heirloom varieties.

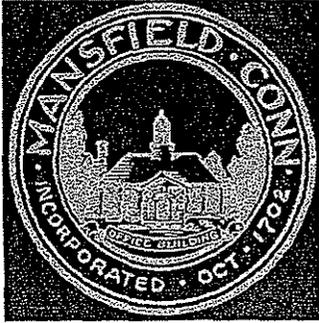
Hand-spun wool, local honey, local maple syrup, beeswax products, goats' milk soaps, and fresh baked goods are available all year.

If you would like more information about the Market or to sign up for the weekly e-newsletter, please email StorrsFarmersMarket@gmail.com.

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Only 227 voters show up for Mansfield budget vote

by: Caitlin M. Dineen | Staff Writer Wednesday, May 12th, 2010



Whether it was apathy or some premonition that Tuesday's vote might not stick - only 227 Mansfield voters showed up at the annual Town Meeting to cast their vote on the \$33.7 million town/education budget for 2010-2011.

The vote was taken by paper ballot in the auditorium of the Mansfield Middle School. The budget passed with 188 in favor and 39 opposed.

With 10,939 registered voters in town, turnout at the Town Meeting was 2.18 percent.

The Regional School District 19 vote on May 4 on the budget for E.O. Smith High School also had a poor turnout, although it topped this week's total - 488 votes were cast in Mansfield. (District 19 comprises three towns. In Ashford there were 372 votes and in Willington there were 141). That budget also passed.

However, the town/education budget can still be petitioned to a referendum, as has happened in previous years. Residents have 21 days after a budget passes to submit a petition with signatures from at least 2 percent of the registered voters in town, which would be slightly less than the same number as those who turned up at the Town Meeting.

As it stands now, the 2010-2011 budget is a 0.8 percent increase over the current budget.

Despite this modest increase, the budget didn't have wholehearted support from the Town Council.

Republican Town Council members Meredith Lindsey, Christopher Paulhus and Denise Keane have spoken against the budget.

Lindsey told voters Tuesday night that she, Paulhus and Keane believe the Town Council should have cut the budget further in light of the troubled economy and diminishing state aid. "This is not the time to increase the tax burden on our residents," she said.

Under the new budget, the town's current mill rate of 25.71 will remain the same next year.

The owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$5,142 in taxes. However, some residents may pay more taxes next year because of the recent revaluation of property, which may have increased the value of some homes.

Before the paper-ballot vote, there was one attempt to reduce the bottom line.

Roger Roberge Jr. recommended reducing the board of education budget by \$200,000. Initially, his motion was to cut three of the four positions being reinstated at Mansfield Middle School but under Mansfield's charter, voters can only move to reduce (or increase) the bottom line.

His motion failed when no one would second it.

As approved Tuesday, the general government budget for fiscal year 2010-11 is \$13,113,895 (a 2.1-percent increase) and the Mansfield board of education budget is \$20,588,160 (a \$7,410 decrease).

Additionally, Mansfield's budget includes the town's \$9,924,230 portion of the Regional School District 19 budget and that figure is \$587 less than the current year.

Voters also approved a \$20.06 million capital projects fund.

This includes nearly \$17.6 million in state and federal funds for the proposed Storrs Center project, according to town officials.

The remaining money for the capital fund, totaling \$365,045, would come from bonds, other state grants and town-contributed money.

According to town officials, the capital fund pays for community development, public works, facilities management, general government, community services and public safety.

The capital and nonrecurring fund - which covers one-time purchases or expenditures - is \$967,545.

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