

draft
Town of Mansfield
Four Corners Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
January 11, 2011

Present: Nesbitt (Chair), Plante, Hart, Rawn, Reich, Ferrigno, Paulhus, Hultgren (staff), Walsh (Environmental Partners), VanZelm (Downtown Partnership), Stoddard & Lennon (Sustainability Committee), Sebonik (guest), Kellman (guest)

The meeting was called to order by chair Nesbitt at 7:03 pm.

The minutes of the December 8, 2010 meeting were approved on a motion by Hart/Rawn with Plante abstaining.

John Walsh of Environmental Partners briefly outlined the draft report his firm had prepared evaluating the several options for water supply to the four corners area. He said that essentially all the alternatives include wheeling water through the UConn system. The report recommends further study of two alternatives – a location along the Willimantic River adjacent to Plains Road and a location just to the south of Eagleville Lake also along the Willimantic. Both sites are Town owned and need further environmental evaluation. Considerable discussion followed on both the alternatives themselves and the process by which they were and will be evaluated. It was agreed that the draft report would be circulated to the Town Council and other interested parties/Town entities. Additionally, Hart agreed to contact the Town of Coventry to determine its interest in combining efforts at the Eagleville Lake site. Walsh agreed to contact CT Water to determine their projected time line for their interconnection to UConn proposal.

Stoddard and Lennon from the Town's Sustainability Committee led a discussion of the Town's sustainability efforts and how the sustainable goal applies to many of the Town's initiatives, including the four corners project. Considerable discussion and brainstorming took place. Committee members explained that they are working on recommendations for the PZC regarding a four corners special design district. Discussion on how the Town could market this area to attract the type of businesses that would most likely succeed in Mansfield ensued. Hultgren suggested that the committee's recommendations to the PZC on design guidelines could also contain some economic development recommendations ... some members felt that this may be beyond the scope of the water and sewer committee's current charge. It was agreed that UConn has a major influence on the success of area businesses and that a large part of the Mansfield "market" is transient. Discussion about the differences between Storrs Center and the four corners also took place along with the status of regional economic development efforts. The discussion concluded that the committee should try to promote sustainable development for the four corners area, but that it will need help from other Town entities (and possibly regional entities) to carry this out. Stoddard and Lennon offered the Sustainability Committee's assistance going forward.

Nesbitt reported that he had met with the area USDA representative to determine the four corners area's eligibility for USDA rural development grant funds. He said that new guidance to the USDA had precluded them from considering specific areas of a Town to meet the rural development guidelines for population and population density, so for the foreseeable future, USDA funding for this area was unlikely.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the committee's consideration of its action plan was postponed to the next meeting.

The 2011 committee meeting dates were set for the first Tuesday of each month; however, the next meeting will take place in March (March 1st).

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren
Director of Public Works