



**MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**  
**Wednesday, December 7, 2016**

**DRAFT - MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Maggie Ferron (staff), Sarah Dufresne (staff), Katie Bell (staff), Pat Schneider (staff), Lisa Dahn, Marianne Legassey, Barb Giardina, Brenda Rivers, Tracy Smith, Judy Stoughton, Pam Roberts, Jane Goldman, Mike Limberg

**Regrets:** Acey Neel, Susan Daley, Johannah Gorgone

**Guests:** Ginny Walton, Mansfield Recycling Coordinator

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
CALL TO ORDER	Maggie Ferron called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.	
CONSENT AGENDA		<i>The October and November 2016 meeting minutes were approved.</i>
Staff Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Quality and Sourcing group: Jiff Martin, Ben Wiles, Diane Dorfer, and Stephanie Richard submitted a Farm Viability Grant application to the CT Department of Agriculture. This grant would allow the town to purchase equipment to process and store fresh, local produce when it's ready and keep it for later consumption. Maggie commented on the high quality of the work. Next meeting will be 12/14 at 9 AM.</li> <li>• Maggie reminded school readiness programs to PLEASE have families submit school readiness applications for when slots open. The waitlist is not full.</li> <li>• Sarah Dufresne provided information to the group from the meeting she attended for School Readiness Council co-chairs.</li> <li>• Sarah Dufresne also provided an update and solicited suggestions for the program she and Adam DeLaura at the library are putting together regarding kids and smartphones. She suggested a program at the Nash-Zimmer Transpo center focused on informing parents about the potential dangers of certain "apps" and how to secure kids' phones to keep them safe. Brenda Rivers remarked that a parental support aspect might be very helpful for parents whose kids are insistent about wanting to freely use their devices.</li> </ul>	

<p>TOPICAL DISCUSSION: Ginny Walton, Mansfield's Recycling Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ginny provided a brief presentation on the problem of food waste in the US and presented Mansfield's new Food Waste Challenge: <a href="http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/1914/3973/40158/40196/41128/default.aspx">http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/1914/3973/40158/40196/41128/default.aspx</a> When 10 families sign up, she will begin s new cycle for the challenge. This includes issuance of a food scale and tips for families to reduce their food waste.</li> <li>• Issues surrounding food waste in public schools, centers, the senior center, and homes were discussed. These include regulations preventing programs from saving opened but uneaten food; requirements that food be kept at a certain temperature if it's going to be served, etc.</li> <li>• The Mansfield food bank can't accept "expired" food (NB- almost all "use by" or "best by" dates are just manufacturer suggestions), but the Ashford Food Pantry can accept these goods.</li> <li>• Sarah Dufresne reminded the group that Food Share does a great job collecting unused food and delivering it to needy families in the community.</li> <li>• Question was raised whether advocacy around getting food from the source to needy families could be effective in easing some restrictions.</li> <li>• Ginny suggested that families can request that the supermarket sell them "seconds," or not-quite-perfect produce that would otherwise be wasted.</li> </ul>	
<p>Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting dates for 2017 APPROVED</li> </ul>	
<p>ADJOURN</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.</p> <p>Next Regular MAC Meeting, <b>Wednesday, January 4, Mansfield Senior Center</b></p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Maggie Ferron, Early Childhood Services Coordinator</p>	