



Mansfield Tomorrow

OUR PLAN ► OUR FUTURE

ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

January 30, 2013 | 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Mansfield Public Library's Buchanan Center

Special Meeting Minutes

Present: *Kristin Schwab, Betsy Paterson, Jeff Poehlemus, John Armstrong, Charlie Ausberger, Quentin Kessel, Greg Padick, John McGuire, Roger Adams, Mehdi Anwar, Eva Csejtey, Charlie Galgowski, George Rawitcher, Cynthia VanZelm, Toivo Kask, Sarah Acorsi, Ken Rawn. JoAnn Goodwin, Planning and Zoning Commission Chair. Larissa Brown, Goody Clancy, Amy Kohn, Goody Clancy, Ken Snyder, Place Matters, Linda Painter, Town of Mansfield, Jennifer Kaufman, Town of Mansfield.*

1. The meeting was called to Call to Order at 5:30 pm
2. Linda Painter welcomed the attendees gave some background information about of the Mansfield Tomorrow Project.
 - Mansfield was one of 27 communities across the country to be awarded a HUD office of Sustainability Community Challenge Grant.
 - Town will build off of the Plan Of Conservation and Development (POCD) and Mansfield 2020 and bring them together
 - New Zoning and Subdivision regulations will be developed at the end of the process
 - Jennifer Kaufman is project manager, full-time
 - PZC will appoint citizen members to the AG on February 4th.
3. *Larissa Brown introduced Goody Clancy and the rest of the consulting team and described their role in the project.*
 - Goody Clancy works all over the country – done many comprehensive plans at many scales
 - Working with a number of team partners including – YellowWood (agriculture), Mt. Auburn Associates(economics), Farr Associates (innovative zoning, sustainability in regulations), Place Matters (community participation)
 - Final product will be a new POCD, once completed it will go through a review process through the Planning and Zoning Commission
 - Imperative that community members feel that the plan belongs to them
 - Participation process will have meetings – but also digital opportunities.
4. *Ken Snyder described the community engagement strategy in more detail.* Process will strive to optimize public engagement, to tap into community member's strengths and skills, while providing

as much info as possible in user-friendly format. The March 9th meeting will use a number of approaches and will strive to involve those who do not normally come to meetings. The digital town hall, Mind Mixer was also be used.

5. *Attendees introduced themselves and described what they wanted to see out of the project.*
- *Kristin Schwab, Mansfield Sustainability Committee, Landscape Architecture faculty at UConn, Downtown Partnership (on Board of Directors and Chair of Advertising)*
 - Bike and multimodal transportation
 - Green infrastructure
 - Energy
 - Leverage and strengthen relationship with UConn
 - *Betsy Paterson, Mayor, incorporator of Downtown Partnership, sits Co-chair of Town Gown Committee and Community-Campus Partnership, Chair of Eastern Highlands Health District, and many more committees*
 - Bring as many community members in as possible.
 - Enhance attractive aspects of town – preservation
 - UConn will expand – town can be part of process and have influence or sit back and watch it happen
 - *John Armstrong, interim director of student services, UConn representative*
 - UConn is growing, would like to work with Mansfield
 - *Charlie Ausburger*
 - 4th generation of family living in Mansfield
 - former business owner in town
 - would like to see responsible growth and preservation
 - *Quentin Kessel, representing town Conservation Commission, which has responsibilities over water resources by state statute*
 - Europe has better land use planning – maybe Mansfield can be an example of how to improve American planning
 - *Greg Padick, citizen candidate for Advisory Committee, former director of Planning and Zoning*
 - Must generate more economic base, UConn is key (in order to preserve attractions of Mansfield)
 - *John McGuire representing Economic Development Commission (just formed in Oct.)*
 - *Roger Adams, Mansfield Downtown Partnership, President of Windham Chamber of Commerce*
 - Business perspective – regulation, transportation
 - Employers understand that Mansfield is picky about growth
 - Predictability is important! Regulation is ok as long as it doesn't change too often
 - *Mehdi Anwar, faculty at UConn*
 - From Bangladesh
 - Again, UConn will grow no matter what
 - How to be energy independent? Lots of questions need to be answered before we decide what we want to achieve

- Eva Csejtey, citizen candidate
 - Part of local community-resiliency group, Storrs-Mansfield Transition
- Charlie Galgowski, representing Agricultural Committee – filling in
 - Maintain and improve existing agriculture
 - The need for agriculture needs to go way past food to be economically viable
 - Economics, zoning
- George Rawitscher, retired UConn physics professor
 - Interested in climate change
 - Organized CIMA with Virginia Walton and Jennifer Kaufman
 - To be able to plan while taking climate change into account – mitigation and adaptation
- Cynthia vanZelm, Director of Downtown Partnership
 - Continuing to promote downtown
 - Linking downtown with other developments, and tech park
- Toivo Kask, citizen candidate
 - Trained architect
 - Aesthetic component
 - Vision to recreate walkable villages in town
 - Regional aspect – how town fits into northeast corner
- Sarah Acorsi – rep zoning board of appeals
- Ken Rawn
 - Representing Four Corners Sewer Planning and Water Advisory Committee

6. *Next Steps* Goody Clancy stated that they would be getting in touch with members regarding a regular meeting date.

7. Adjourn- Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm