

Town of Mansfield Transportation Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting – October 18, 2012

Present: Frantz (chair), Marcellino, Bigl (Commission on Aging), Bent (Mansfield Advocates for Children), Hultgren (staff), Grunwald (staff), Blanc (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Chair Frantz.

The minutes of the August 20, 2012 meeting were reviewed and no corrections made.

Frantz reported on the recent public hearing held in Mansfield by the CT Public Transportation Commission.

The current bikeway/walkway priority listing, previously discussed at the August, 2012 meeting, was reviewed again. Hultgren said that he had received a request to add the small piece of sidewalk that is missing between the corner of 195 and 275 and the Town Hall first driveway to the walkway listing. After some discussion, it was decided to include this 180 feet of walkway on the list as a priority “3” and to approve the listing in its revised form. Hultgren will circulate this revised listing to the various Town departments and committees.

Hultgren pointed out that a draft task list for operating the new Transportation Center was in the packet and that the operations plan will be developed over the next few months and any suggestions from committee members would be welcome.

Hultgren gave a brief update on the Town’s ongoing transportation-related projects, including the Stone Mill and Laurel Lane bridge replacement projects, the Storrs Center projects and the walkway to Storrs Heights. Grunwald reported that the new senior transportation van was expected in the next week or so.

The guests and staff from the Commission on Aging and Mansfield Advocates for Children were introduced and a discussion of the unmet public transportation needs in Mansfield ensued. Several areas of Town have public transportation needs for both seniors and children (examples: Route 32 corridor, Mansfield Library, schools and play areas) and the question as to how to address these needs was debated. Bent mentioned that her committee was working on surveying interest/needs in this area. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the guests would express these needs in a communication to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) identifying and prioritizing them and staff would work to quantify/justify these needs using methodologies referenced in the transportation planning literature. The TAC would then orchestrate forwarding these to agencies that might be able to help – the DOT, WRTD, UCONN, etc. – as well as other Town departments/agencies in order to look to meet some of these needs on a priority basis. Different ways of meeting these needs, including the use of the new transportation center, will be suggested and examined.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, December 6, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren
Director of Public Works