
GoToMeeting | Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
4 So. Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT

DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moran called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on GoToMeeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Ausburger, Berthelot, Fratoni (*late arrival noted below*), Freudmann, Kochenburger, Moran, Schurin, Shaiken

Excused: Bruder

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Berthelot **moved** and Mr. Schurin seconded to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 special meeting as presented. Motion **passed** unanimously.

Ms. Berthelot **moved** and Mr. Schurin seconded to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 regular meeting as presented. Motion **passed** unanimously.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mary Lynch, Lorraine Drive, Mansfield Middle School student, spoke in support of the proposed Indigenous People's Day resolution.

Darren Mack, UConn student, spoke in support of the proposed Indigenous People's Day resolution and read a statement from the Undergraduate Student Government. (Statement attached.)

Barbara Mellone, Baxter Road, wrote in support of the resolution for Indigenous People's Day. (Read into the record by Mr. Aylesworth. Statement attached.)

5. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth presented and discussed his written report. The report is available online at www.MansfieldCT.gov and is on file with the Town Clerk.

6. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Moran reported that she attended an AdvanceCT meeting last week where opportunity zone marketing and 5G networks were discussed. She also discussed a letter to the Governor she co-signed with other CCM towns regarding PILOT funding.

(*Mr. Fratoni arrived.*)

Mr. Freudmann reported that he was not permitted to speak at the Personnel Committee meeting earlier that evening and he asked the Mayor to reassign the Personnel Committee Chair position to Mr. Schurin.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. COVID-19 Update (Item #7A, 1.11.21 Agenda)

Mr. Aylesworth reported long-term space use at the Mansfield Community Center for vaccine clinics has been secured thereby removing the obstacle to scheduling second appointments after receiving the first dose.

Robert L. Miller, Director of Health, Eastern Highland Health District (EHHD), provided the Council with an update on COVID-19 in Mansfield. Regular testing continues at the Mansfield Middle School location, meetings with DPH and UConn weekly occur weekly, reserve corps registrations have increased, and EHHD continues to hold vaccination clinics. Local volunteers may sign up for the medical reserve corps at ctresponds.ct.gov and check off "Eastern Highland MRC" on the online form. Volunteers are needed for many things and do not need to be a licensed clinician.

In response to Councilor questions, Mr. Miller reported vaccines orders are placed weekly and there were a few shortages, a short list of on-call seniors has been developed to ensure no doses are wasted, and more assistance with outreach to seniors is needed. To notify staff about seniors who need help obtaining the vaccine, call 860-487-9875.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proclamation in Honor of the 100th Birthday of Roberta K. Smith, Mansfield's Municipal Historian

Ms. Berthelot **moved** and Mr. Kochenburger seconded, effective January 25, 2021, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of the 100th Birthday of Roberta K. Smith, Mansfield's Municipal Historian. Motion **passed** unanimously.

B. Cyber Security Update

Jaime Russell, Information Technology Director, presented regarding the Town's proactive efforts against cybersecurity threats. In response to Councilor questions, Mr. Russell explained that access by third party vendors is controlled and prescriptive.

C. Human Rights Commission Update

Glenn Mitoma, Human Rights Commission (HRC) Chair, highlighted elements of the HRC written report including a summary of activities, recommendations, next steps, and upcoming activities. At the request of the Mayor, the HRC will have suggestions for goals in time for the Town Council goal-setting session in July/August.

Mr. Shaiken **moved** and Ms. Berthelot seconded, effective January 25, 2021 to adopt the attached Resolution Redesignating the Second Monday in October each year to be Indigenous People's Day in the Town of Mansfield. Motion **passed** unanimously.

9. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Berthelot, Personnel Committee Chair, reported that the Committee met earlier this evening, learned about changes to the chain of command in the Finance Department and discussed the use of a consent agenda for Town Council meetings.

By recommendation of the Committee on Committees, Ms. Berthelot, **moved** to appoint Lori Trovato to the *Agriculture Committee* as an alternate for a term ending 10/13/2022, to reappoint Sheldon Dyer, Anna Knuttel, Howard Raphaelson, Anne Rash, and David Palmer to the *Recreation Advisory Committee* for terms ending 8/1/2023, and to reappoint Nancy Trawick-Smith and Martina Wharton to the *Commission on Aging* for terms ending 9/30/2023. Motion **passed** unanimously.

Mr. Freudmann reported that he attended tonight's Personnel Committee meeting but felt forced to leave early because he was not allowed to speak. He opposes a consent agenda because he thinks it will prevent minority members from speaking on controversial issues, wants a recourse for a point of order called for a personal attack, and wants equal time given to each party to speak as opposed to each individual.

10. DEPARTMENTAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

11. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Lynch, Mary (9.17.20)

B. Stern, Bette and Paul (1.17.21)

C. Daugherty, Eleanor - Associate VP & Dean of Students, UCONN: Welcome Back Message to Students (1.12.21)

D. Municipal Leaders Letter to Governor Lamont re: Tiered PILOT (1.15.21)

E. Governor Lamont message re: Phase 1B Vaccine Appointments (1.19.21)

12. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Amendment to Code of Ordinances to prohibit the possession of firearms on municipal property
- Council standing committee appointments

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shaiken **moved** and Mr. Ausburger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Mayor

Sara-Ann Chaine, Town Clerk



Undergraduate Student Government
Damani R. Douglas, Chief Diversity Officer
Noah Frank, Director of External Affairs

January 24, 2021

To: Town Council
4 South Eagleville Road
Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

Honorable Counselors of the Town of Mansfield,

We write to you today, January 25th, to express our strong support for item 8C, **A Resolution Redesignating the Second Monday in October Each Year to be Indigenous Peoples' Day in the Town of Mansfield**. We believe that the recommendations by the Mansfield Human Rights Commission are a productive step toward bringing community-wide understandings that are reflective of the time in which we live.

592 years ago, an Italian sailor from Spain crossed the Atlantic Ocean in search of riches in India. That sailor landed in the Americas and began the second wave of European visitation to the American continents, and with it, brought the seeds of European colonization. There began the slow but sure subjugation of the people who called the lands that we now live on home.

245 years ago, and 284 years after that sailor arrived, the United States of America was born. We as Americans committed atrocities against the inhabitants of these lands. We excused the ensuing genocide in the name of "Manifest Destiny," an ideology rooted in the superiority of the white man over the Indigenous People that had called the Americas their home for thousands of years.

152 years ago, San Francisco became the first city in this country to commemorate a day in the name of this Italian sailor. In the years that followed, generations of policy-makers in states, cities, and up through the federal government, began to dedicate the second Monday in October to the remembrance of that sailor and his resulting legacy.

Today, only about one percent of the U.S. population self-identifies as American Indian. They are incredibly underserved, facing an exorbitant 27% poverty rate, and live in some of the worst conditions found throughout our country. The peoples indigenous to the lands that we now sit developed the crops and agricultural techniques that now feed 60% of the world. In 13 days, the United States will celebrate the Super Bowl: the culminating game in a sport derived from Indigenous Peoples.

Mansfield, specifically, belonged to the Mohegan and Nipmuc tribes. Connecticut has a role to play in this national movement, and as such, communities throughout the state and the country have begun to re-evaluate the scope of this celebration of this day. They have re-designated this holiday in honor of the millions of people who lost their lives as a result of colonialist treatment.



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Undergraduate Student Government
Damani R. Douglas, Chief Diversity Officer
Noah Frank, Director of External Affairs

From a student perspective, we see the redesignation of Indigenous Peoples' Day as a natural step toward creating an environment we wish to create for the future. Mansfield is a community that we as students are not only ingrained within, but many of us feel a deep connection here. In Fall 2018, the Undergraduate Student Government released a [Joint Resolution](#) in support of UConn implementing Indigenous Peoples' Day as an official holiday. We see this effort in Mansfield as a continuation of these efforts.

515 years ago, the sailor from Spain was buried in a grave. Each year the population of American Indians shrinks further.

To use Macklemore's version of Banksy's words: "They Say you die twice, once when they bury you in the grave And the second time is the last time that somebody mentions your name"

The Town of Mansfield today has a question before it. Who should live on in the hearts and minds of the residents of this town. Whose contributions should our children celebrate with a day off from school?

259 days from today is the second Monday in October. What should that day be called?

Sincerely,

Damani R, Douglas
Chief Diversity Officer

Noah Frank
Director of External Affairs



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From: [Barbara Mellone](#)
To: [Town Mngr](#)
Subject: Comment regarding the Resolution Redesignating the Second Monday in October Each Year to be Indigenous People's Day in the Town of Mansfield
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 2:19:40 PM

Dear Town Council Members,

My name is Barbara Mellone, I have been a Mansfield resident since 2009 (address 235 Baxter Road) and I am writing to provide a brief note in support of the resolution "Redesignating the Second Monday in October Each Year to be Indigenous People's Day in the Town of Mansfield".

Many of those that defend the traditional value of Columbus Day in the US cite how dear this celebration is to the Italian American community. I immigrated in the US from Italy when I was 29 years old and became a US citizen in 2011. I come from a family with an unusually high number of teachers and I can say that still today Italians are told a very misleading story about Columbus, which may be the reason why many don't recognize him as a symbol of colonialism and racism.

I have learned more about Columbus and his legacy recently, after my child, a class mate of the clever Mary Lynch, came home talking about him. In their 8th grade social studies class led by Mrs. Hodgson, these children are learning about the dark side of the "discovery" of America and are gaining an appreciation that how history is told really depends on who's telling the story. These conversations prompted me to educate myself about the atrocities perpetrated by Columbus and to reach out to my relatives in Italy to learn if he is still portrayed as the courageous and intrepid traveler that I remember from my school days. Even though we don't celebrate Columbus in any official holiday, it seems like he is still viewed positively, but a new understanding of the tragic truth is starting to creep in Italian culture and classrooms and will hopefully allow for more honest debates in future generations.

As an Italian and an American, I would be delighted if instead of Columbus day our Town supported a day to celebrate the culture and history of Indigenous people and therefore I fully support this resolution.

Thank you,
Barara Mellone



Town of Mansfield

*A Resolution Redesignating the Second Monday in October Each Year to be
Indigenous People's Day in the Town of Mansfield*

WHEREAS, Indigenous People of Mansfield, as in all parts of the Americas, have a rich and vibrant living tradition worthy of celebration by all communities of the world; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous People of Mansfield, as in all parts of the Americas, have endured centuries of discrimination, exploitation and genocide; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield encompasses the historic homelands of Indigenous Peoples including the Nipmuc, Pequot, and Mohegan Nations; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Town of Mansfield by non-Native settlers was facilitated by unjust war and expropriation of these Indigenous communities; and

WHEREAS, facing and acknowledging our past, good as well as bad, makes our community stronger and more resilient;

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

1. That the second Monday in October of each year be Indigenous Peoples' Day.
2. That on the second Monday in October of each year the Town of Mansfield will support events that encourage understanding and appreciation of Indigenous Peoples, their traditions, cultures and our shared history on these ancestral lands.
3. That at all times the Town of Mansfield will seek to encourage all educational institutions within the Town to implement accurate curricula relevant to the traditions, history, and current issues of Indigenous Peoples.
4. That the Town of Mansfield will direct the Town Manager to work with Town departments, the Mansfield Human Rights Commission, the Mansfield Historic Society and other appropriate partners to explore opportunities to commemorate and recognize in our public spaces the historic and current presence of Indigenous Peoples in Mansfield.
5. That, in all of these efforts, the Town of Mansfield will work together in partnership with Native Americans and Indigenous communities.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Mansfield to be affixed on this twenty-fifth day of January in the year 2021.



Antonia Moran
Mayor, Town of Mansfield