

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: A. Moran, C. Workman, J. Carrington, J. Armstrong, E. Holinko, B. Sims, P. Aho, S. Vasington, N. Frank

Staff: L. Painter, C. van Zelm

Absent: M. Gilbert, D. Freudman

Meeting was called to order by C. Workman at 1:01pm. Workman asked for introductions from the committee as this was N. Frank's first meeting.

1. Public Comment

No Public Comment

2. Meeting Minutes

Aho moved, Sims seconded approval of the February 11, 2020 minutes as presented. Frank abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Updates

a. Mansfield Downtown Partnership / Economic Development. van Zelm indicated they were addressing the repercussions of Covid-19 to the businesses downtown. There is more information on their website and social media. They continue to promote the Opportunity Zone with UConn and Advanced CT. They are reviewing and making edits to the Regional Economic Development Plan and will share those in a few months once completed. Aho asked about losing Geno's, van Zelm stated the focus was shifted to their new restaurant in Manchester. Moran asked if there are any other vacancies, van Zelm stated there may be others. Workman asked about the brewery, this died in legislation. Van Zelm stated Nature's Medicine contributed \$75,000 to the Community, which will be used for bike racks around town, continuing the public spaces upgrades, revitalizing new spaces, and improvements to Lenard Hall.

b. Planning and Development. L. Painter stated approximately 15 or so outdoor dining permits were pushed through and helped out the restaurants. Planning and Zoning adopted amendments, which can be viewed on the Town website. There were a lot of changes for single family homeowners that will reduce the process for improvements. A larger project on the horizon about what uses will require special permits is moving forward. They have also been working on grant applications.

c. USG. N. Frank has been working with the Student Body President and Thought Exchange to dispatch a student satisfaction survey about online classes and what will happen in the fall.

Looking forward to working with the Town and assist in the election as well as bringing any issues from the Town to their committee. Moran is concerned about the request for an absentee ballot and how to vote for the primary as it relates to students. Frank will send this message along and work with the State Representatives and the Mayor. Armstrong will reach out to UConn PIRG to come out to the August meeting and speak about the election and the process. Armstrong also stated UConn is addressing food insecurities by donating swipes and donations to give to those that cannot afford them.

4. UConn Construction Updates

Vasington stated construction was essential and continues today. The Gant Science Project will be completed April/May of next year. The third and final phase will begin in 2024. Baseball completed their facility, Performance Center is scheduled to complete in January 2021, soccer should be ready this fall, and softball and the multi-purpose field are scheduled to be completed next year. Jim Calhoun Way will be closed for utility work between Freitas and Separatist. The Fine Arts project was completed this spring. The Northwest Science Quad was given the green light and will proceed in the next 2-3 weeks. A portion of King Hill Road will be closed during construction. This project will include classrooms, research, and an auditorium. The number of parking spaces on campus will stay the same, but will be spread out in different areas.

5. UConn / Town Covid 19 Update

Carrington stated the Town Hall and Town Buildings have been closed since March. The Community Center is scheduled to reopen on June 22nd. The Town has been helping businesses and restaurants to open as the guidelines allow. Town staff have been getting all the work done at home working remotely and it has worked well. There is no set date for reopening the Town Hall. The Town Council approved a three-month extension for July real estate tax bills. The mill rate has been kept constant but the re-evaluation of houses may increase tax bills. Workman stated guidelines were sent to UConn from the State. An Emergency Policies Group meets 1-2 times a week to discuss the guidelines and formulate a plan to meet each of the guidelines for the fall semester. All students and employees will be tested, approximately 40,000 people. This is a requirement. The capacity of classrooms will need to be re-evaluated for social distancing and for physical capacity. Currently, all employees are working remotely other than the facilities department. A notification will come out about the plan for the fall semester. The Town and UConn have been meeting regularly to evaluate the health and safety of the UConn students and town residents as there is talk of reintegration. Last week approximately 98% of the students collected their belongings from the dorms.

6. 2020 Census

Carrington stated there was a 57.1% self-response rate for Mansfield, Tolland County has a 70% response rate, the area around the campus was at 17.5%. Students left in March and the census probably was not filled out. The census board will come out in August/September but students may be living elsewhere or have new roommates that were not there on April 1, 2020. This will be a very complicated process to get accurate numbers. Students need to go online and report where they would have been on April 1, 2020 had there not been a pandemic. Frank will help to get the word out to students to self report. Armstrong stated 11,000 students were contacted in April/May, those who lived off campus. Workman stated there is a list of seniors that could be utilized to reach out and ask them to report.

7. Other Business

Moran asked about the Town Manager Recruitment process. Carrington stated there were 25 applications and the closing date is at the end of the month. Interviews are scheduled for July.

8. Future Agenda Items

Elections/Voting

Census

Covid-19 Updates

Motion made by Sims seconded by Holinko, to adjourn at 2:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Baczanski
Public Works Specialist
Town of Mansfield