

# Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: September 24, 2012  
Re: Town Manager's Report

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Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

## **Council Requests for Information/Council Business**

- *State Plan of Conservation and Development* – The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has published a draft of the proposed 2013-2018 Conservation and Development Policies Plan for the State of Connecticut. All state agency projects are required to be consistent with this plan, as are local plans of conservation and development. Additionally, recent legislation prohibits state agencies from providing funding for a 'growth related project' that is outside the boundaries of Priority Funding Areas as identified in the new plan, unless the project meets the criteria for an exception to that prohibition (CGS §16a-35d). The draft plan was distributed to the Council and various Town advisory committees at the end of August for review and comment. The Planning and Zoning Commission will be reviewing the draft plan and formulating comments to OPM on behalf of the Town at their October 1, 2012 meeting. Any comments or concerns should be forwarded to Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development, prior to the meeting.
- *Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee on the Amendment to the Building and Fire Permit Fee Ordinances* – We would like to hold the first meeting of the subcommittee this Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. Please let me know if this will work for the members of the group (Denise Keane, Paul Shapiro and Elizabeth Paterson). If this Thursday is not workable, we will have to push this meeting out until mid-October to accommodate the schedules of the committee members.
- *Special Town Council Meeting* – The Council will hold a special meeting at 6:00 PM on Thursday, October 4, 2012, to discuss the Storrs Center project.

## **Departmental Reports**

- *Emergency Services* – Mansfield firefighters recently assisted with the delivery of a beautiful baby girl, who was born on ambulance 507 while en route to the hospital. At the time of the call there was no medic available from Windham Hospital, therefore the mother and baby were transported by Mansfield ambulance to Windham Hospital. Mom and baby are doing well. Congratulations to our staff on a job well-done!
- *Human Services* – Last Thursday, September 20, 2012, the Department of Human Services and the Mansfield Housing Authority began sponsoring a Mobile Foodshare Program at Wright's Village on maple Road in Mansfield. Mobile Foodshare brings perishable food items such as highly nutritious fruits and vegetables to people in low income neighborhoods who need it most. By working with a network of sponsoring agencies that provide neighborhood sites and the volunteers to manage them, Foodshare provided over 2.6 million pounds of produce in 2011. Mobile Foodshare currently operates 54 sites in 26 towns throughout greater Hartford, and from January 1 to April 30, 2012 they distributed 1 million pounds of product. Here in Mansfield, volunteers from UConn's Office of Community Outreach and Town staff will assist with the distribution of food. Despite minimal advertising, approximately 70 people showed up to receive food on the first day of this program in Mansfield.
- *Town Manager's Office* – I have a couple of items for this section. First, I now have nine nominees for the Economic Development Commission, and plan to review the slate of candidates with the Committee on Committees to obtain the committee's endorsement. Second, on September 14<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Mayor Toni Moran and I attended the official ceremony designating a 21-mile section of the Willimantic River as a 'National Recreation Trail.' The event was well-attended, featuring speakers and representatives from the

National Park Service, the CT Department of Environmental Protection, the Last Green Valley, the Willimantic River Alliance and other regional and local agencies that helped to make the designation a reality. I would like to thank them all for a job well done.

### **Major Projects and Initiatives**

- *Storrs Center Construction Update* – The demolition of 1254 Storrs Road is underway. The former marketplace building housed many businesses over the years, including Subway, Travel Planners, Skora's Barbershop and Body Language - all of which are now open in their new locations in 1 Dog Lane and 9 Dog Lane. The removal of 1254 Storrs Road will make way for the extension of Bolton Road into Storrs Center and for Phase 1C of the new downtown. While every effort is being made to manage traffic flow, there may be delays as the construction vehicles navigate the site. Please remember to drive slowly through the construction area and to maintain a safe distance between yourself and oversized vehicles. The Partnership continues to maintain a construction website for updates at <http://storrscenterconstruction.blogspot.com>.
- *Small Cities Grant* – I am very pleased to inform you that on September 19<sup>th</sup> the Governor announced that we have been awarded \$300,000 in Small Cities funding to continue the Town's successful housing rehabilitation program. This award will ensure that we can continue to assist our low and moderate income homeowners in making needed repairs to their homes. Special thanks to Jessie Neborsky and the Access Agency, our consultant, for preparing the successful application. For more information about the award announcement, please see [item numbers 13](#) and [14](#) in your September 24, 2013 Council meeting packet.

### **Member Organizations**

- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership* – Yesterday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held our 9th Annual 'Festival on the Green' in front of EO Smith High School. The Celebrate Mansfield parade kicked off the festivities with the biggest parade yet! We had our first float this year from the Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The parade included many highlights – among them grand marshals Lloyd and Gwen Duff, the long-time owners of the Holiday Hill Recreation Center and active community volunteers, the EO Smith marching band, puppets celebrating animals native to our region and made at the puppet workshop two weeks ago, and the UConn marching band. The Festival included over 80 booths and activities representing Mansfield food vendors, non-profits, businesses, and civic organizations. The performances were a mix of local groups (Kidsville Kuckoo Revue, Villari's Martial Arts, EO Smith Drumline, Mansfield Academy of Dance, Community School of the Arts Treblemakers Choir, Suzuki Assoc. of Mansfield, and Poor Old Shine) with our headliner Roots/Americana duo *brown bird* from Providence. No surprise – we have a great amount of talent in Mansfield! Many thanks to the many volunteers who make the Festival happen year after year and a special thanks to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership staff – Kathleen Paterson and Cynthia van Zelm – for coordinating another great event!

### **Upcoming Events**

- *Public Hearing: Connecticut Public Transportation Commission* – The Connecticut Public Transportation Commission (CPTC) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 27, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers at the Mansfield Town Hall. This is one of a series of seven public hearings which will be held throughout the state in various regions and metropolitan areas. These hearings will enable members of the CPTC to gain firsthand information and feedback from the public concerning existing and proposed public transportation services within the state of Connecticut. The CPTC is particularly interested in receiving comments from public officials and private citizens on how public transportation is working in the state and what might be done to improve it.

Issues of interest to the Commission include:

- New Mansfield intermodal center and transit-oriented development complex
- Regional transit service adequacy and needs
- UConn/Mansfield pre-paid fare program
- Status of plans for new WRTD bus facility

- Update on passenger rail service proposal on New England Central rail line
- Other topics of interest to the public

Interested persons are invited to submit recommendations or other comments concerning the transportation system, either orally or in writing at the hearing. Comments and testimony may also be mailed to Dennis J. King, CPTC Liaison at P.O. Box 317546, Newington, Connecticut 06131-7546.

### **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Traffic Authority, September 25, 2012, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, September 25, 2012, 2:30 p.m., Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, September 26, 2012, 1:15 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, October 1, 2012, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland Wetlands agency and Planning and Zoning Commission, October 1, 2012, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, October 2, 2012, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, October 2, 2012, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting**, October 4, 2012, 6:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board, October 9, 2012, 11:45 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town University Relations Committee, October 9, 2012, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, October 9, 2012, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 6:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Historic District Commission, October 9, 2012, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

*\*Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*