

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: December 9, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Report

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

Council Business

- *Council Inquiry re Work at EO Smith High School* – At the November 12th meeting, Councilor Wassmundt asked whether the Town's Public Works crew was performing work on a Saturday, on overtime, on a sidewalk owned by Region 19. The crew performing the work was not a Town of Mansfield crew. However, the company performing the work is owned by a Town of Mansfield retiree, which may have caused some confusion for passersby.
- *Town Council orientation* – Staff held an orientation for new Council members on Wednesday, December 4, 2013. I believe we had an informative session and I thank all the Councilors and staff who were able to participate.
- *FY 2014/15 Financial and Budget Overview* – Staff is planning to schedule the annual financial and budget overview for Saturday, January 25, 2014. This will be a morning session, running from 9:00AM-12 noon. At this session, staff will provide the Council with an update regarding the Town's current financial position, and discuss preliminary revenue estimates and cost drivers for FY 2014/15. In addition, we will seek input from the Town Council regarding the Town's strategic objectives to provide direction for my proposed budget and to make sure that staff's work remains aligned with Council goals.

Community-Campus Relations

- *UConn Master Plan* – The University is in the process of selecting a planning firm to assist in the preparation of a comprehensive master plan. The Comprehensive Master Plan will guide the physical development of the campus for the next 20 years. The University has narrowed list of firms to three - all of whom have extensive experience preparing master planning initiatives for major universities across the country. Three public 'Meet and Greet' interviews have been scheduled for the short-listed firms:
 - Tues, Dec 10, 4:00 – 5:00PM, Student Union Theater — interview for NBBJ
 - Thurs, Dec 12, 12:00 – 1:00PM, Student Union Theater — interview for SOM (Skidmore, Owings & Merrill)
 - Fri, Dec 13, 12:00 – 1:00PM, Student Union Theater — interview for Michael Dennis & Associates

The consultants have been asked to prepare an hour long, interactive 'meet and greet' session. They will cover the basics of preparing a master plan and how this initiative will benefit UConn and the surrounding community. Feedback on the performance of each team, collected after each session, will factor into the final selection process. The formal kick-off for the master plan will occur in January 2014 followed by 10-12 months of intense planning activities that will involve the campus and the community at every stage, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, legislators, and other stakeholders and partners. According to UCONN staff, the most successful campus master plans are the result of early consultations, extensive interaction and ample opportunity for input along the way.

- *UConn North Hillside Road Project* - On November 27, 2013, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Office of Adjudications recommended that the agency finalize and issue the permits for inland wetlands and non-consumptive stormwater diversion associated with the North Hillside Road extension project. UCONN received DEEP's approval of these permits and the associated

water quality certificate today, December 9, 2013. With DEEP's approval, UCONN expects the US Army Corps of Engineers will finalize its project permit very soon. UCONN staff will submit the final design drawings to the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) after receiving all permits and is clear to bid the project after ConnDOT completes its final review.

- *UCONN Open House on the Main Accumulation Area* - On November 19, 2013, the University published the environmental impact evaluation (EIE) for public comment; the EIE is available online at <http://www.envpolicy.uconn.edu/eiestorage.html> and <http://www.ct.gov/ceq/cwp/view.asp?a=987&Q=536178>. Hard copies are available at the Mansfield Town Library and Town Clerk's office and the comment period will close on January 19, 2014. (Due to the upcoming holidays, UCONN has provided a longer comment period than the required 45-days.) UCONN staff will conduct a public hearing on January 8, 2014. The hearing will officially start at 7:00PM at Bishop Center Room 146; doors will open at 6:00PM to allow for an open house-style opportunity to review informational material.

Departmental Reports

- *Parks and Recreation*
 - *Senior Health and Wellness Fair* – The Mansfield Community Center hosted a senior health and wellness fair today, sponsored by State Senator Don Williams. Senator Williams' staff arranged for approximately 25 vendors to attend. UCONN Physical Therapy students set up an additional eight stations to test and to educate participants about various health and strength components. Approximately 50 seniors took advantage of this event - significantly less than expected due to the inclement weather.
- *Public Works*
 - *Paint Recycling Program* – Paintcare is non-profit organization that operates paint stewardship programs on behalf of paint manufacturers in the three states (California, Connecticut and Oregon) with paint stewardship laws. Paintcare is pleased to announce the start of its large volume pick up (LVP) service. Designed for those with lots of paint, the service is available for both businesses and households with large volumes of postconsumer paint to recycle. Contact PaintCare to arrange to have the paint picked up directly from your home or business. (Typically "large volume" means a minimum of 300 gallons, measured by container size, not content.) To learn more about this service, please read the LVP Factsheet available at paintcare.org or call PaintCare at 855-724-6809.

Upcoming Events

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – The Storrs Winter Farmers Market will be held on Saturdays (Dec 14 & 21, Jan 11 & 25, Feb 8 & 22, March 8, 22, & 29, and April 12 & 26), 3:00 – 5:00PM, inside the Buchanan Auditorium at the Mansfield Public Library. Storrs Farmers Market is the only year-round farmers market in Northeastern Connecticut. For more information or to sign up for the Market email newsletter, please visit: www.storrsfarmersmarket.org.
- *Winter Welcome* - The [Mansfield Downtown Partnership](#) and [Storrs Center](#) master developer LeylandAlliance invite residents and visitors to "Winter Welcome," a holiday event in Storrs Center on Saturday, December 14, 2013 from 1:00 to 5:00PM. There will be carolers and musicians strolling and performing outside and indoors. The E. O. Smith Chamber Singers and performers from the Community School of the Arts will share their talents as part of the afternoon fun and participating Storrs Center businesses will have holiday treats, sales, and specials. Keep a look out for a [Mountain Dairy](#) milk truck heading from the Mansfield Town Hall around 2:00 PM – it will have a special passenger on board! Santa Claus will greet friends at the new UConn [Co-op Bookstore in Storrs Center](#) from 2:00 pm until 4:00PM. As part of Winter Welcome, Storrs Center businesses will be collecting donations to benefit the Town of Mansfield Human Services Holiday Program. This program supports local families in need during the holiday season and supplements efforts such as the Adopt-a-Family gift-giving program. Look for a collection jar at your favorite Storrs Center businesses. If you are interested in further participation, contact the Town's Human Services Department (860.429.3315) for more information about how to help Mansfield families in need.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Youth Services Advisory Board, December 10, 2013, 11:45 a.m., Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, December 11, 2013, 5:30 p.m., Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, December 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Four Corners Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee Meeting, December 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Mansfield Community Center, Community Room
- Regulatory Review Committee, December 12, 2013, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, December 13, 2013, 8:00 a.m., Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Responsible Contracting Committee, December 13, 2013, 9:00 a.m., Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, December 16, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, December 16, 2013, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, December 18, 2013, 7:30 p.m., Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, December 19, 2013, 5:30 p.m., Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **CANCELLED** - Town Council, December 23, 2013, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, 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.*