

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: February 23, 2015
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

- *State Budget* – Please see the attached analysis of the impact of the Governor's Proposed FY 2015/16 Budget on the Town of Mansfield. Overall, the Governor's proposal represents a loss of \$29,333 from the FY 2014/15 Budget adopted at Town Meeting. In addition, the Governor has proposed that the state increase the reimbursement rate that Towns pay the state for the resident trooper program from 70% to 100% of applicable costs. This would have a significant impact on Mansfield and would increase our costs by approximately \$500,000. I am tracking both of these issues with our state legislators and will plan to testify at the capitol as needed for the balance of the legislative session.
- *Gas Leak* – On Saturday afternoon (2/21/15), a construction crew inadvertently hit a gas line adjacent to the VS-2 building now under construction (building that borders Storrs Road), which resulted in a gas leak. The Mansfield Fire Department and fire departments from our surrounding towns responded and Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG) shut the valve off to stop the leak. There is no concern about any continuing leakage at this point. CNG made a temporary repair to the piping and will make a permanent repair as soon as possible.

Department Reports

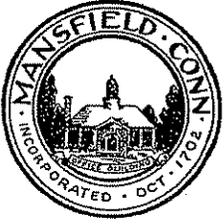
- *Mansfield Public Schools*
 - *Interim Superintendent* - The Board of Education has appointed Dr. Richard Kisiel to serve as Interim Superintendent of the Mansfield Public Schools. Dr. Kisiel has extensive educational and district leadership experience, including 12 years as Superintendent of the Avon School District, and most recently as an Interim Superintendent for the Manchester Schools. Dr. Kisiel started work on February 19th and it is good to have him here. The Board also commended Dr. Rachel Leclerc for her service as Acting Superintendent and I would like to extend my thanks to Rachel as well. She is a true professional and a team player, and lent great stability to the district during a difficult time.
 - *Information Request re Administrators' Administration* – attached please find a memo from Dr. Kisiel in response to Council's request for information on this item.
- *Department of Public Works*
 - *Route 275 Bridge Replacement Info Meeting* – The Connecticut Department of Transportation will be hosting a public information meeting at 7:00 PM on February 25, 2015 to discuss the proposed replacement of the Route 275 bridge over the Willimantic River at Eagleville Dam. The meeting will be held in the large lecture hall at Coventry High School, 78 Riley Hill Road, Coventry. Construction is anticipated to take place over five months in the summer/fall of 2015 including an 8-week detour. The proposal would replace the existing 15-foot wide, one-lane bridge with a 32-foot wide, two-lane bridge. See attached flyer for more information.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *CL&P Interstate Reliability Project* – No work is scheduled in Mansfield for the week of February 23, 2015. Weekly construction updates can be found at www.NEEWSprojects.com. Residents can also call 1-866-99NEEWS (1-866-996-3397) or email NEEWS@NU.com for more information.

Town of Mansfield/Mansfield Board of Education
 State Grant Analysis
 Projections as of February 18, 2015

					Adopted	State Revised Estimates 06/12/14	Chg. State Over Adopted	CCM- Gov.2/18/15
Grant	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015	2015	2016
Pequot Grant	193,911	211,700	231,700	205,985	232,978	230,219	(2,759)	209,564
PILOT	7,265,843	7,058,654	7,030,230	6,784,862	6,957,610	7,648,878	691,268	7,275,531
ECS	10,070,677	10,065,506	10,189,409	10,168,358	10,186,650	10,186,654	4	10,186,654
Transportation	135,357	116,428	132,423	124,527	120,790	120,786	(4)	121,561
Town Aid	205,727	208,125	212,152	423,034	423,030	423,034	4	415,303
LoCIP	183,979	183,703	189,462	192,489	189,460	192,489	3,029	184,935
Municipal Revenue Sharing		407,710	281,154	6,434	6,434	124,438	118,004	6,841
Municipal Aid Adjustment				625,545	312,770	312,770	-	-
Total Actual	18,055,494	18,251,826	18,266,530	18,531,234	18,429,722	19,239,268	809,546	18,400,389
\$ Incr (Decr) from Prior	(779,646)	196,332	14,704	264,704	648,244	708,034		(29,333)
% Incr (Decr) from Prior	-4.1%	1.1%	0.1%	1.4%				



Mansfield Public Schools

To: Matthew Hart, Town Manager
From: Richard Kisiel, Interim Superintendent
Date: February 20, 2015
Re: Information Request regarding Administrators' Association

The Town Council has requested incorporation documentation or an initial recognition agreement for the Mansfield Administrators' Association. Please note the composition of bargaining units of certified employees (either administrators or teachers) are established by statute, the Teacher Negotiation Act, in Connecticut. By way of comparison, the Municipal Employees Relations Act, which governs our non-certified employees (the custodian/maintenance, nurse, paraprofessional, and secretarial units), has specific provisions for employee elections run by the State Board of Labor Relations, which determine not only union affiliation (AFL-CIO and the like), but the actual positions that comprise a particular bargaining unit.

For the most recent set of negotiations, the administrators sought inclusion of a new position, the IT Director. The IT Director meets the standards established by the Teacher Negotiation Act. The IT Director has administrator certification (092), he supervises and evaluates certified staff, and is a regular participant of the administrative council.

Finally, there is a formal process for modification of an existing certified group that includes a petition to the State Board of Labor Relations. Given that the IT Director meets the statutory standards established by the Teacher Negotiation Act and would likely be successful should that formal process be initiated, the Mansfield Board of Education's negotiating team agreed to voluntarily allow him to join the Association. Districts often do this to avoid legal wrangling over the issue after having assessed the circumstances.

I am confident this will satisfy the Town Council's request.

Everyone Is Invited To A

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Project No. 32-148

**REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NO. 02866
ROUTE 275 OVER WILLIMANTIC RIVER
COVENTRY AND MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT
TO BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

at 7:00 P.M.

Large Lecture Hall
Coventry High School
78 Riley Hill Road
Coventry, Connecticut

(INCLEMENT WEATHER DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015)

Residents, business owners, commuters, and
other interested individuals are encouraged
to take advantage of this opportunity to
learn about and discuss the proposed project.

PLEASE JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Location is ADA accessible. If language assistance is needed, please contact
Department of Transportation's Office of Communications at
(860) 594-3062.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) will conduct a Public Information Meeting concerning the replacement of Bridge No. 02866, which carries Route 275 over Willimantic River in the towns of Coventry and Mansfield. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 7 p.m., in the Large Lecture Hall of Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road, Coventry. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

The existing bridge, built in 1900 and reconstructed in 1973, is a two-span structure consisting of a precast, prestressed concrete box beam superstructure on stone masonry abutments and center pier. It is situated between Route 32 and Route 31 and carries one lane of alternating one-way traffic controlled by stop signs. It has an overall length and width of 122 feet and 15 feet, respectively, and a curb-to-curb width of 14.3 feet. The approach roadways accommodate one lane of traffic in each direction; however, there is a railroad bridge just east of Bridge No. 02866 which has a minimum curb-to-curb width of 17 feet allowing only alternating one-way traffic to pass beneath it. The 2013 average daily traffic on the bridge is 3,100 vehicles.

The proposed project consists of replacing the existing bridge with a two-span precast, prestressed box beam superstructure supported on concrete abutments and the existing stone masonry pier. The proposed curb-to-curb width will be 32 feet, which consists of an 11-foot lane and 5-foot shoulder in each direction. An open metal bridge rail system will be utilized across the structure. The new abutments will be constructed behind the existing stone masonry abutments which are to remain to maintain the existing aesthetics of the area. Roadway work will include full and partial depth roadway reconstruction for a minimum distance beyond the ends of the bridge and new guiderail will be installed and attached to the newly construction bridge parapets.

Work is anticipated to begin in the summer 2015 and be completed in the fall 2015. The majority of construction will be performed utilizing an eight week detour. The proposed detour length is 14 miles utilizing Route 32 and Route 31. The estimated construction duration is five months. There is no rights-of-way involvement associated with this project. The replacement of this bridge is to be undertaken with 100 percent State funds. The estimated construction cost for this project is \$2,900,000.

The Public Information Meeting is being held to afford a full opportunity for public participation and to allow open discussion of any views and comments the community may have concerning this proposed project. The meeting facility is ADA accessible. Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Department of Transportation's Office of Communications (voice only) at (860) 594-3062 at least five working days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public, and efforts will be made to respond to requests for assistance.

Plans will be available for public review. Department personnel will be available during the meeting to discuss this project. More detailed information is available at the Department's Office of Engineering, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, Connecticut, during office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding holidays. Anyone wishing to review the plans may contact Ms. Lesgie M. Ruiz at (860) 594-3351 or by e-mail at Lesgie.Ruiz@ct.gov.

All persons interested in this project are welcome to attend this meeting and discuss the project with Department personnel.

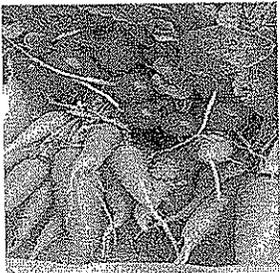
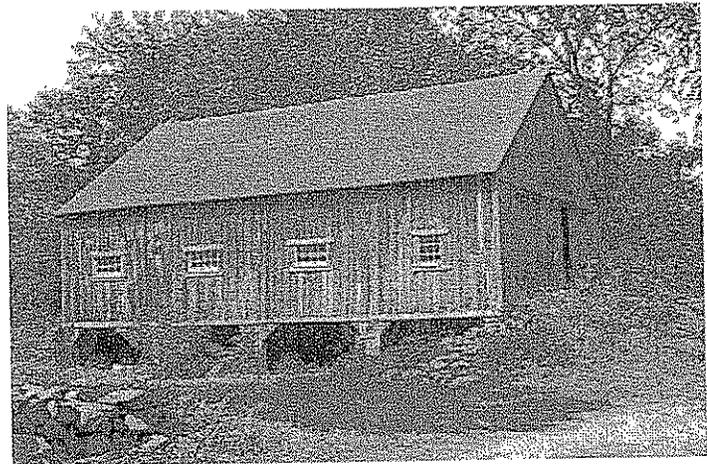
Farm, Forest and Natural Resources Expo

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 10 AM - 2 PM.

WILLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 7 RUBY ROAD (ROUTE 320)



Join us to explore the benefits of local farms, sustainable forests and open space protection with short talks, displays and handouts for adults and *music, crafts and stories for kids*.



FOR ADULTS

10-2 Dozens of experts with displays and handouts

10:15 "Growing Local Agriculture" by Joan Nichols, CT Farm Bureau

11:30 "Benefits of Managing your Forest" by Dan Evans, Forester

12:30 "Reasons and Ways to Use Native Plants" by Charlotte Pyle, USDA

FOR KIDS

10:00 Story time and seed planting by Willington Public Library

11:30 Folk Singer Maria Sangiolo, two-time Parents' Choice award-winning artist

1:00 Make a mini-terrarium to take home by Willington Public Library

SPONSORED BY THE WILLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

CONTACT: JULIA CARTABIANO: WVFCSA@GMAIL.COM 860.487.9954

ORGANIC LAND CARE WORKSHOP SERIES & COMPOST

BINS FOR SALE

Compost Bin Pre-Order Sale Going on Now!

Visit www.mansfieldct.gov/trash to get details on the sale and the order form.

The Town of Mansfield is offering a series of free workshops focused on landscaping techniques that reduce storm water pressure, pesticide, herbicide and synthetic fertilizer use and support a healthy environment around our homes. To pre-register for some or all of the five workshops, call 860-429-3333 or e-mail waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.

Edible Landscaping

Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10 am - 11 am (snow date March 7)

Town Hall Council Chamber

Pre-register by February 25, 2015. Make your home landscape multi-task by including edible, but beautiful plants. Deborah Lee, a UConn Extension Master Gardener Coordinator, will explain how to include edible trees, shrubs, perennials & annuals in your existing gardens.

Organic Lawns

Saturday, March 14, 2015, 10 am - 11:30 am (snow date March 21)

Town Hall Council Chamber

Pre-register by March 11, 2015. Learn how to create a lush, healthy yard without the use of pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizers from accredited organic land care professional Rick Brosseau of Milrick Lawn Service.

Rain Gardens/Rain Harvesting

Saturday, March 28, 2015, 10 am - 11 am (snow date April 4)

Town Hall Council Chamber

Pre-register by March 25, 2015. Explore the water resources on your property and learn interesting ways to use them. Participants will learn about the benefits of rain barrels and how to create a landscaped rain garden from Jean Pillo, Coordinator for the Thames River Basin Partnership.

Permaculture Gardens

Saturday, April 11, 2015, 10 am - 11:30 am

Town Hall Council Chamber

Pre-register by April 8, 2015. Permaculture gardens use techniques and practices that combine the best of wildlife gardening, edible landscaping, and native-plant cultivation into one low-maintenance, self-contained and productive ecosystem. Learn how to apply permaculture techniques to your property from Will Hooper, a certified permaculture designer.

Backyard Composting

Saturday, May 2, 2015, 10 am - 11 am

Town Hall Council Chamber

Pre-register by April 29, 2015. Learn about the inner workings of a compost pile and how it is an integral part of organic land care. This workshop will help you get started or improve what you already have going. Presented by Virginia Walton, Mansfield Recycling Coordinator.

- *Mansfield Tomorrow: Draft Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)* – The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) will be holding a public hearing on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber to take comments on the draft POCD. In addition to verbal testimony, written comments may be submitted prior to or at the meeting itself. The PZC will receive testimony until 11:00 PM on March 2nd and may end the meeting earlier if they have heard from everyone present. Once testimony has concluded for the evening, the hearing will be continued to April 6th as the PZC has extended the comment period at the request of the Town Council.

Upcoming Events

- *Farm, Forest and Natural Resources Expo* – The Town of Willington Conservation Commission is hosting an expo on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at the Willington Public Library (7 Ruby Road, aka Route 320) from 10 AM to 2 PM to showcase the benefits of protecting farms, forests and other natural resources. There will be activities for both kids and adults. See attached flyer for more information.
- *Mansfield Farmers Forum* – The Mansfield Agriculture Committee is hosting its Annual Farmers Forum on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the E. O. Smith Agricultural Education Center. Tours of the Education Center will start at 6:30 PM.
- *Organic Land Care Workshop Series* – The Town of Mansfield is offering a series of free workshops focused on landscaping techniques designed to reduce stormwater and the use of pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizers, and to otherwise support a health environment at home. Please see the attached flyer for more detail.
- *Storrs Farmers Market* – Storrs Winter Farmers Market will be open two Saturdays a month from 3:00 – 6:00 PM at the Mansfield Public Library. The remaining Winter Market dates are: February 28, March 14 and 28, and April 4 and 18. Everything sold at Storrs Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut. Visit www.storrsfarmersmarket.org for more information.
- *UCONN South Campus Scoping Meeting* – The University of Connecticut will hold a scoping meeting for several proposed improvements to South Campus, including a new Honors Residence Hall; an addition the Fine Arts building; removal of two houses on the south side of Gilbert Road that are contributing structures to the University of Connecticut National Register District; closure of Gilbert Road between Mansfield Road and Whitney Road; modifications to Whitney Road, including removal of on-street parking; and closure of Coventry Road and Maple Lane to vehicular traffic with the exception of emergency vehicles. The public scoping meeting will be held on March 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM in Room 146 at the Bishop Center. The deadline to submit comments on the proposed project scope is March 19, 2015.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, February 24, 2015, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, February 26, 2015, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland Wetland Agency/Planning and Zoning Commission, March 2, 2015, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, March 3, 2015, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, March 4, 2015, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, March 5, 2015, 4:00 PM, Mansfield Public Library
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, March 5, 2015, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, March 9, 2015, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, March 9, 2015, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, March 9, 2015, 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.*