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**From:** Cynara Stites [cynarastites@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2011 4:19 PM  
**To:** Town Mngr  
**Subject:** Ordinance to Prevent Neighborhood Nuisances

Matt,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the proposed Ordinance to Prevent Neighborhood Nuisances. Nine of the 18 covered offenses in the proposed ordinance have occurred repeatedly at the rental house at 113 Hanks Hill Road (across the road from my house). I know it is impossible to anticipate every obnoxious behavior in which transient tenants renting from absentee landlords may engage. It is obvious that a lot of work has gone into developing this ordinance, and it's unlikely that any changes are needed.

However, I believe that you have overlooked **trespassing** on neighbors' property. One year the student-tenants at 113 Hanks Hill Road repeatedly crossed the property line behind the house to have drinking parties around the fires they set in a circle of stones they had assembled. The property owner, Sheila Clark, who lived around the corner on Farrell Road, was unaware of the trespassing and **open fires** on her property. I discovered this soon after the tenants moved out, and I informed the owner's son, Patrick Clark. He put up "no trespassing" signs and a wire fence on the property line behind 113 Hanks Hill Road. The trespassing and open fire offenses are probably covered by other ordinances, so it may not be necessary to add these offenses to the Neighborhood Nuisance ordinance.

Another offense that is not addressed by the ordinances is **fireworks**. I don't know which fireworks are legal in Connecticut, but it should be unlawful to set off fireworks in the road and in the front yard several yards from the adjoining neighbor's house. The "disturbing the peace" law and ordinance probably cover these offenses.

It is impossible for law enforcement to address some bad behaviors such as repeatedly putting broken glass in a neighbor's driveway, knocking a neighbor's garbage can into the road week after week, pouring chocolate sauce on a neighbor's car, and stealing a neighbor's window air conditioner cover. In my experience, the UConn student disciplinary system is not equipped to address such issues.

Even if you don't add any more offenses to the neighborhood nuisance ordinance, the proposed ordinance is a marked improvement over the present situation.

Of course, a law or ordinance is only as effective as its enforcement. It has been very difficult to get the police to deal with offenses that are already illegal under state law or Town ordinances. Due to the skimpy police presence in Mansfield, the state police officers' ignorance of Mansfield ordinances, and the police officers' focus on more serious crimes, my neighbors and I have had little success over the years in getting the police to respond to or ticket the tenants at 113 Hanks Hill Road for various offenses. I hope that the Town has a plan to ensure the Neighborhood Nuisance Ordinance will be effectively enforced.

Please share this e-mail with the Town Council.

Cynara Stites



*Town of Mansfield*

**A Resolution Concerning African American Revolutionary War Patriots of Mansfield,  
Connecticut and the Proposed National Liberty Memorial**

WHEREAS, Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa introduced legislation in the U.S. Senate in May 2011 to complete the unfinished business of two decades: the construction of an entirely citizen-funded National Liberty Memorial to African Americans of the Revolutionary War at a location in the monumental core of Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, from 1775 to 1783, an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 slaves and free persons served as soldiers, sailors and patriots in the Revolutionary War, including Cato Mead of Norwich, Connecticut, and later of Montrose, Iowa, while tens of thousands of men, women and children provided civilian assistance, ran away from slavery and petitioned courts and the General Assembly for freedom; and

WHEREAS, more than 800 African Americans who resided in over 80 towns and cities, and all eight counties, in Connecticut served in the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, one known African American soldier and patriot from Mansfield named Asher Allen participated in the struggle for independence; and

WHEREAS, although the original memorial was not constructed, and the authority to do so has lapsed, genealogical research and the publication of hundreds of books over more than two decades reaffirm the significant contributions made by African Americans of the post-colonial period and validates their influence on the patriotism of future generations and the movement for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, the momentum to construct a national memorial, and to finally compile a comprehensive list of African American patriots, arose in 1984 out of the quest of Lena Santos Ferguson, deceased, of our sister town of Plainville, Connecticut to honor her heritage and expand the nation's understanding of the role of African Americans in the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1984, Rep. Nancy Johnson, Senator Lowell Weicker, and Senator Chris Dodd were leaders in the enactment and advocacy of landmark legislation, including

Public Law 98-245 commemorating African American patriotism and Public Laws 99-558 and 100-265 that authorize a national memorial and declare the history of "preeminent historical and lasting significance to the nation."

**WHEREAS**, these combined efforts, reported by the Hartford Courant over 24 years, brought about the publication in 2008 of *Forgotten Patriots, African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War*, which contains the longest list so far of African Americans in the Revolutionary War, **NOW THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF MANSFIELD** joins the National Mall Liberty Fund, D.C., ([www.libertyfunddc.org](http://www.libertyfunddc.org)) the congressional sponsors and original cosponsors of the National Liberty Memorial Act, including Rep. Donald Payne of New Jersey and Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia, and those who applaud the decision of Congress and President Reagan in 1988 to authorize the predecessor memorial at a site between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mansfield Town Council encourages volunteers to discover the names of still-unknown African American Revolutionary War soldiers, sailors and patriots, enlarge the body of knowledge about their lives and forward the information to National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. for inclusion in a database that will celebrate the trail blazers of Mansfield together with those of hundreds of proud American communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mansfield Town Council urges the Connecticut Delegation to the United States Congress to work for the enactment of the National Liberty Memorial Act and to spread knowledge of the history to institutions in Tolland County while promoting its potential for understanding and unity throughout the nation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Mansfield Town Council forward certified copies of this Resolution to the entire Connecticut Delegation to the United States Congress, the Governor of the State of Connecticut, the Speaker and President Pro Tem of the General Assembly and the local superintendent of schools, librarian and historical society.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have set my hand and caused the Corporate Seal of the Town of Mansfield to be affixed on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year 2011.

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Elizabeth C. Paterson  
Mayor, Town of Mansfield

Omar Kouatly  
98 Fern Road  
Storrs, CT 06268

RE: 76 Fern Road (a.k.a. bus garage)

Dear Town Council,

On behalf of the neighborhoods of Fern, Scottron and Sheffield we greatly appreciate town taking this request seriously. We are glad to see action in terms of DEP and requesting the owner to address the unsafe condition this property poses.

However, we have concerns that do not appear to be addressed in the Town Manager's report that we respectfully submit to the council for action:

1. Based on the report posted for today's meeting there is no mention of the memo from the current owner offering to abandon the property to the Town of Mansfield
2. Even if the door to the garage is fixed it is full of holes and the whole structure represents an unsafe condition
3. As the report states remedies "have proven unsuccessful in the past" we should keep the current owner to the letter of the law and after 7 business days immediately take action
4. The steel and shed building itself has economic value. The Town should cover the back taxes by having it dismantled.

As of today, there is NO change in the status of the door. This represents a clear and present unsafe condition that exists within our neighborhood full of young children.

Please take prompt action to have the structure dismantled to eliminate this unsafe structure and protect the citizens of Mansfield.

Respectively, Omar Kouatly

Respectfully, 