

Aug. 27, 2012

To: Town Council

From: Betty Wassmundt

About the appointment of Hearing Citation Officer, is this a paid position and what are the duties?

About the Wormwood Hill Green, it seems that this is a much more complicated situation than what was initially presented. I urge you to leave the green as it is. Don't needlessly incur any more responsibility and expense for the town.

Regarding No. 9, about Four Corners, I don't understand the letter from Hart. It's dated August 27th and refers to Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> as being in the future.

Nex, I urge you to address the letter from Mr. Mingrone about feral cats. Feral cats should be the responsibility of the town and the town should round them up and humanely dispose of them. I consider euthanasia to be humane. This town needs a cat ordinance requiring all cats to be "house cats". Cats should not be allowed to roam freely. Domestic cats are not native to this continent. Cats are predators; they prey on small mammals and birds. They are known to kill millions of mammals and birds each year. The people who love their cats and allow them to roam about are feeding the local coyotes and fishers. That is not a humane death for the cat. Please deal with this issue.

Last session I asked you to do something about the trees at the Senior Center being overcome with bittersweet. I'm pleased to see that the plea was finally heard but displeased with the work. The trees were cleared of vines by cutting off the branches. All that had to be done was to cut the vines and remove the bittersweet roots; the vines in the trees would dry and fall off and the trees would still have branches. *Maybe the branches were dead, & would fall off.* Also, about 20% of the area, the uphill portion, wasn't cleared of vines. I continue to find reason to say: only "public servants" could get away with such performance.

About the two school referendum, I urge you to vote to send this to referendum at the November elections. I'm sure that by doing this you will so infuriate the public that come next council election, you will be voted out. Thank you.

My name is Jim Raynor. I live on Moulton Road in Mansfield. I'd like to speak to you about the upcoming vote on building 2 new schools in town. Specifically, I'd like to address the timing of the vote on this proposal. I sent a letter to you a few weeks ago expressing my feelings on your proposal, so there is no need to repeat what I hope you've already read. But I would like to address one specific part of this issue- namely the date to be chosen for our vote. I know some of you are concerned about diminishing the voting rights of Uconn students who opt to vote in Mansfield in the presidential election, and therefore qualify to vote on this issue. I hope you will be equally aware of diminishing the value of the votes of the permanent residents of the town- those of us residents who elected you to represent us. I am concerned about Uconn students who come from Greenwich, Litchfield, Chicago, or Los Angeles voting on a purely local Mansfield issue of which they probably have little or no knowledge. Their vote on this issue is probably not an informed vote, but it counts just as much as your vote and mine. That doesn't seem fair to the permanent residents of Mansfield. You were all elected by Mansfield residents to serve Mansfield residents. I think we should decide what the design our grammar schools will be.

Even if you don't feel your first responsibility is to the residents of Mansfield, and I suspect that most of you do, if you will schedule this referendum vote on a date separate from the presidential vote, anyone interested in voting on this issue can do so. No one's right to vote is taken away. If a Uconn student wishes to vote in our referendum, he or she can. If doing so means coming to the polling place for the sole purpose of voting on our schools, chances are he or she will be someone who is informed on the subject and who will cast an informed vote, not someone who is there to vote for a president, and oh yes, while I'm here, I can vote for, or against, new schools in Mansfield, even though I know little about Mansfield, and don't really care all that much. Holding the referendum on a different date enables anyone who wishes to vote to do so.

I think the council owes it to the people who elected you, to not diminish the value of our votes. And by the way, as I said in my previous letter, thank you for your service on the town council. It is a big commitment on your part.

Thank you for your time.