

### **Proposal to establish a Mansfield Climate Change Committee:**

The primary purpose of this Climate Change Committee would be to alert members of appropriate Mansfield Town Committees to the mitigating and adaptive measures that need to be considered in order to protect citizens from future and potentially harmful consequences of climate change. This will enable Mansfield to develop a Climate Action Plan, an initiative highly supported by the DEEP of Connecticut for all the state's towns. According to DEEP's Jeff Howard, who heads the department's Climate Change Desk, only two towns have thus far developed such a plan: Bridgeport and Groton-New London.

### **The new committee would:**

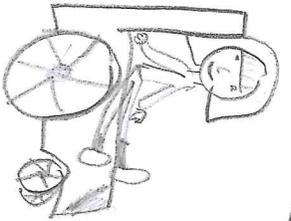
- a) Advise other committees on whether their proposed projects take into account the effects of climate change on a sufficiently long time scale ( more than 20 years).
- b) Be aware of funding availability from the State or the Fed. Gov't to enable Mansfield to implement appropriate measures concerning adaptation to - and mitigation of-Climate Change.
- c) Keep well informed about advances in renewable energy technologies, green house gas reduction and sequestration methods, and new sustainable methods in agriculture. Included would be advances in solar or wind energy production and storage. Also important would be to track prospective and current legislation that regulates the harmonious co- existence between private and commercial production of energy.
- d) Work with the new Institute for Community Resiliency and Climate Adaptation, recently established by the Governor of Connecticut at the Regional UCONN campus at Avery Point, and be informed of other legislative changes taking place in the State of Connecticut and in neighboring states concerning climate change and its ramifications.
- e) Be informed of construction plans at UCONN in order to avoid town-gown conflicts.
- f) Organize regularly held public meetings with recognized experts on topics concerning the future of Mansfield and its adaptation to the various manifestations of Climate Change.

### **Examples appropriate to our inland location**

#### **1. Flooding**

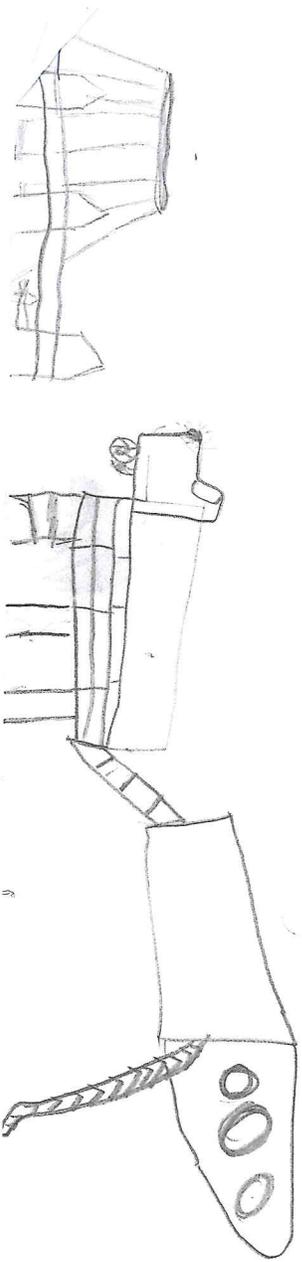
According to predictions of the USA National Climate Assessment (2014), the incidence of very heavy rain episodes will occur much more frequently in the Northeast than heretofore. In order to protect communities such as Mansfield from flash-floods, large amounts of water will need to be deflected from highways and towns in a short amount of time. Examination of the capacity of presently existing storm sewers would be required. Probably a good way of complementing the storm sewers would be to examine the topography of surrounding land in order to set aside areas appropriate to store the water in the form of flood-lakes. The people in the Netherlands are now doing this. A possible alternative would be to examine river beds and find places where large lakes with dikes could be built, through which the

T h e n e w



2014's Gynlltair TWM

R l a y g r o u n d i p



I think that you <sup>8 years</sup> should build the new playground because I don't think there are any playgrounds in Mansfield that are wheelchair accessible

before

after

