

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
September 20, 2016

Mayor Paul Shapiro called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Moran, Raymond, Ryan, Sargent, Shapiro
Excused: Kochenburger, Marcellino, Shaiken

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Council Goal Setting Session (2016-2017)

Town Manager Matt Hart, who served as facilitator for the discussion, noted that the purpose of the session was to build on the work accomplished at the previous workshop and to continue the conversation identifying Town Council goals and objectives.

Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola and Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter assisted with the process.

Councilors discussed each area of the draft document offering additions and changes. Staff will incorporate the noted changes and provide an updated draft for Council consideration at the October 13, 2016 Council meeting.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Joan Seliger Sidney, Lynwood Road, stated that UConn should provide on campus housing for all freshman and sophomores and provided examples of related concerns expressed by both Mansfield residents and UConn students. (Statement attached)

Rebecca Shafer, Echo Road, expressed appreciation for the Council's work in identifying goals especially plans to reinvigorate the Town/University Committee. Ms. Shafer also thanked the Mayor and Town Manager for their work in quelling a large party in her neighborhood last weekend.

Mike Campetelle, Moulton Road, complimented Ms. Shafer on her efforts and discussed his concerns about dangerous student behavior taking place in his neighborhood.

Mr. Campetelle expressed concern that the combination of speeding and students walking in the road will lead to a tragedy.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Paul M. Shapiro, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

September 20, 2016

74 Lynwood Road, Storrs
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To Toni Moran & Committee:

I would like to add my concern on behalf of the Mansfield residents & UConn students who have spoken with me about the on-campus housing shortage. First let me speak for Anne (she pronounces it Anna), a second-year graduate student in physical therapy (PT). Anna lives a mile down from UConn in a rented house with her roommate, Elle (Pronounced Ellie), also a second-year PT student. Anne said that the week-end before last, there was an out-of-control party across the street. She complained about the UConn undergraduate culture, where students are so immature that they're convinced they have to get drunk in order to have a good time. She said they should be in dorms with RAs.

Anne told me about St. Lawrence University, her undergraduate college, where students aren't allowed to live off-campus before junior year. Also, she said that if there's a shortage of rooms, first-semester freshmen are encouraged to study abroad. "There's no out-of-control partying problem at St. Lawrence," she said.

Tom, another second-year PT student was shocked to learn that because the dorms opposite Gampel were knocked down, the new dorm only adds ~250 rooms, not the large number he had heard.

One of my senior-year Allied Health helpers said that her cousin, a freshman, wasn't guaranteed housing, that she was part of a lottery.

UConn must start taking responsibility to house all freshmen & sophomores on campus, starting now.

Thanks,
Joan Seliger Sidney