

DRAFT MINUTES

MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, January 5, 2015

Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: Chairman Goodwin, R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Pociask, K. Rawn, B. Ryan
Members absent: B. Chandy
Alternates present: P. Aho, S. Westa
Alternates absent: V. Ward
Staff present: Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development

Chairman Goodwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and appointed Westa and Aho in place of Chandy and Lewis. Lewis arrived at 7:04 and Aho was no longer seated.

UConn Draft Master Plan Review and Discussion

Painter distributed a summary of her preliminary review comments on the master plan and highlighted various positive master plan elements and concerns. Members discussed various elements and asked questions of Beverly Wood, UCONN Director of Planning. Key themes included:

- Skepticism that the proposed enrollment growth was needed.
- Commendations for positive changes in the planning approach, including the strong focus on sustainability, building within existing footprints instead of growing out, introduction of east/west woodland corridors and the multi-modal approach to addressing congestion on-campus.
- Concern that the plan did not seem to address all of the potential impacts of anticipated growth.
- Concern that the plan did not do enough to address travel to and from campus; efforts to mitigate off-campus traffic impacts and the need to expand regional multi-modal transportation partnerships.
- Need for UConn to identify and construct off-campus bicycle and pedestrian connections to areas with high concentrations of student housing and commercial services.
- Opposition to the siting of a multi-purpose arena at the intersection of Routes 195 and 275; alternative sites suggested: the Depot Campus and south campus along Bolton Road, to the rear of Fine Arts.
- Need for UConn to consider alternative mechanisms for reducing congestion on the main campus such as relocating administrative services to the Depot Campus.
- Desire for UConn to provide incentives to staff, faculty and students to use regional transportation services and outlying park and ride lots.
- Support for campus growth contingent upon UConn and the State of Connecticut resolving transportation impacts to the satisfaction of both the University and the Town.

Painter will prepare a draft letter including comments from other advisory committees for consideration at the January 20, 2015 meeting.

Adjournment: Chairman Goodwin adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Holt, Secretary