

Virtual | Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
4 So. Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT

MINUTES

In accordance with PA 22-3, this meeting will be held virtually. A video recording of the meeting will be available on YouTube at "MANSFIELD CONNECTICUT STREAMING CHANNEL" (<https://mansfieldct.gov/video>) within seven (7) days after the meeting.

Public Comment will be accepted by email at FerraraMT@mansfieldct.org or by USPS mail at Town of Mansfield, Attention: Monica Ferrara, 4 South Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06268 and must be received prior to the meeting (public comment received after the meeting will be shared at the next meeting). Please email Ferraramt@mansfieldct.org or call 860.429.3304 by 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting to receive instructions for how to view, listen, or comment live.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jeannine Kanadia called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Hasana Davis, Jane Fried, Jeannine Kanadia, Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine (arrival noted below), Grace Pereira Lopes

Excused: None

Guests: Mayor Moran

Staff: Margaret Chatey, Monica Ferrara

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 3, 2025

Hasana Davis moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2025 meeting, Jane seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Jeannine Kanadia called for nominations of Vice Chair for 2026. Debra Pallatto-Fontaine nominated Grace Pereira Lopes, and Jane Fried seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Jeannine Kanadia called for nominations for Chair. Jane Fried nominated Jeannine Kanadia, Debra Pallatto-Fontaine seconded. Motion passed with

Hasana Davis, Jane Fried, Grace Pereira Lopes, and Debra Pallatto-Fontaine in favor and Jeannine Kanadia abstained.

B. Charge Revision – Guest: Mayor Toni Moran

Mayor Toni Moran wanted to discuss the charge with the commission. Jane Fried reported that she had some ideas on the charge and that she thinks that as the definition of advocacy vs activism.

Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine entered the meeting at 6:04 pm.

Mayor Toni Moran reported on how she thought of the role of the HRC. She explained the Town Manager/Town Council form of government. Council wanted guidance on some ways that the Council can take actions on Human Rights and for the Human Rights Commission to be more of an advisory board.

Members talked with Mayor Moran about various problems in Town and what the Human Rights Commission's role might be moving forward. Mayor Moran gave some ideas on how to maneuver through the systems in order to fulfill an advisory role. Transportation for elderly especially at night, transportation for kids from E.O. Smith from Willington and Ashford and reaching out to Muslim groups in the community were briefly discussed.

Margaret Chatey, Communications Specialist, entered the meeting at 6:10 pm.

C. Celebrate Pride Event Discussion

The Town's policy is that the Pride Flag is flown during pride month. Mayor stated that in past years, there was a focus on high school students, but this past year there were less high school participants. Mayor Moran also believes that the grown-ups of the community are missing during this event.

Margaret Chatey stated that she thought having different organizations and Towns participate would be great addition.

Members briefly discussed some ideas for pride including different groups to reach out to for participation, and reaching out to E.O. Smith High School.

D. 2026 Goals

Members discussed some goals for the next calendar year including collaborating and connecting with the Windham Branch of the NAACP, hosting and providing space for more community conversations,

supporting Hasana Davis's project on assisting students coming into EO Smith, and collaborating with EO Smith's Equity Council and Discourse and Deliberation.

Members summed up these goals as, forging partnerships with organizations that share a similar vision.

E. Lions Club Presentation – Debrief and Collaboration Ideas

Jeannine Kanadia presented the Human Rights Commission slide presentation to the Lions Club at December 6, 2025. Jeannine was given two lapel pins for the Human Rights Commission after her presentation. The Lions Club would like to collaborate and brainstorm with the Human Rights Commission.

F. Speakers for HRC Meetings

Chair, Jeannine Kanadia, wanted to have this on the agenda to discuss a protocol for having guest speakers or organizations coming to speak at meetings. Members brainstormed some groups and guests to invite to meetings.

Jane Fried left the meeting at 7:30 pm.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Senior Center – New Style of Conversations

Jeannine Kanadia stated that the Community Conversations at the Senior Center have taken a new form.

B. Reconnecting and Collaborating with Other Organizations

This was discussed under the goals section of the meeting. No further discussion was necessary.

6. MEMBER REPORTS

Grace Pereira Lopes reported on some of the Human Rights issues in Portugal.

Hasana Davis left the meeting at 7:35 pm. Hasana Davis reentered the meeting at 7:38pm.

Jeannine Kanadia reported that she has been connecting with the NAACP to collaborate on something for Black History Month.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Debra Pallatto-Fontaine moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm, Grace Pereira Lopes seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.