

MEETING MINUTES

Present: P. Aho, J. Armstrong, R. Aylesworth, C. Cotton, S. Cowan, K. Milardo, T. Moran, T. Starke, S. Vasington

Missing: O. Eshoo, N. Fuerst,

Staff: M. Chatey, S. Ferrigno, J. Kaufman

Guests: Jeffrey Dean, Archana Khattar, Laura Tordenti

Mayor Moran called the hybrid meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

1. **Introductions** Chair Moran reversed the order of the agenda, and opened the meeting by asking all those present to introduce themselves for the benefit of new member Carlita Cotton who has been appointed by the Town Council.
2. **Public Comment** A. Khattar, a resident of Windswept Lane near the proposed UConn Golf Practice Facility, expressed concern for its placement there citing concern for wildlife if the wooded area is cut. She is also concerned for well water impact from greens fertilization, and said she hopes another spot can be found so trees can be preserved. Jeffrey Dean, a resident of Windswept Lane, expressed that the facility is not appropriate for a residential setting and he is concerned for housing values in the neighborhood. He does not want to see that space disrupted which will impact wildlife and growing family gardens. He also asked why this facility favors men's golf when there is no women's golf. L.Tordenti of East Road expressed that the facility abuts an historic area, will flood the area with light, and there must be other locations to place it that is closer to campus. She asked the Town to take a stand against this facility's proposed placement, and urged UConn to donate the land to a land trust.
3. **11/4/2025 Minutes** P. Aho moved to approve, seconded by S. Vasington. S. Cowan and C. Cotton abstained. Minutes approved.
4. **Updates**
 - a. *Staff-to-staff meetings.* R. Aylesworth reported that the group meets monthly and has candid conversations about issues of shared interest. Public water supply, public and pedestrian safety concerns, and housing issues have been discussed. There is ongoing public safety concerns for pedestrians walking along Rte. 195 near the Standard, although informal studies indicate a modest number of pedestrians are on the roadside, even during peak hours. The Town Engineer is still in discussion with State Department of Transportation about reducing speed limit, in addition to the slow-down

signage that is already there. No specific response has yet been received from DOT, and R. Aylesworth will follow up. S. Vasington shared that UConn also did a safety analysis of that area, and the university is concerned for increasing pedestrian traffic there during warmer weather. The group discussed there is increased bus usage from the Standard. S. Cowan expressed that the Town must intervene to bring down speed there; Mayor Moran shared that the Town would still like to see roundabouts applied in that area. S. Vasington noted that it is not well lit in that area. Until a sidewalk can be installed on the adjacent property, traffic-calming is a critical step. The potential for a Town easement and other options are being explored. The study of traffic flow around UConn's perimeter should be revisited with Capital Region Council of Governments.

- b. *Town of Mansfield Development Updates.* J. Kaufman reported that The Mark at Mansfield has secured Zoning permit. McDonald's has reopened after renovation. Many developers are requesting meetings, but no new applications have been received. The Carriage House and Knollwood owners have expressed interest in redevelopment at those sites to increase units, and there is discussion about redevelopment at Staples Plaza and development on Mansfield City Road is underway, but no applications are active before Planning and Zoning. Mayor Moran asked if there has been a reduction in single family homes, and J. Kaufman says about 100 have been converted to rentals and another 100 built over the past 10 years. The housing chapter of the POCD will outline the situation. J. Armstrong advocated to change the definition of family so four students can live together, not three. *(J. Kaufman and R. Aylesworth left the meeting at 2 PM)*
- c. *Mansfield Downtown Partnership (MDP).* S. Ferrigno shared that the Game Day Shuttle from Downtown Storrs to Gampel has been growing. Taste 2 Towns with Mansfield and Windham is January 26 to February 8. He also reported on new businesses, expansions, and potential relocations. The Partnership is collaborating with UConn Fine Arts to bring music programs Downtown. He also shared that the brew pub is loosely targeting year-end for completion.
- d. *UConn Construction Updates.* S. Vasington summarized the Golf Practice Facility planning project status, and stressed there is no set design yet. Public comment closes January 16. Post-scoping phase of the project will take 45 days, then the questions will be addressed and staff/consultants will determine whether UConn will enter an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) period. This is early in the process, and no specific design is set. He said that there is no female golf program, but that several sports including rowing, tennis, and volleyball are offered only to women. The golf facility will be funded fully by donations. The need for golf athletes to travel to facilities 30-44 miles for outdoors practice is affecting recruitment of these athletes. Mirror Lake is nearing completion. The Field House work continues through the calendar year, and Gant work will continue for reopening fall 2027. Lighting improvements are taking place at the tennis courts. A new

commissary building at W Lot is being explored. A new parking garage feasibility study is underway looking at several prospective sites. T. Moran expressed she is hearing concerns about increased traffic on Separatist Road, and asked will Hillside ever be reopened? S. Vasington shared that there is no current plan for that, but that a major grant to UConn allowing for study of traffic patterns around campus will include all traffic factors in the analysis. Commencement will be held at Gampel this May, then it will close for renovations through October. Refer to www.uconn.edu/construction for ongoing activity updates.

- e. *UConn Campus Updates.* J. Armstrong referred to the updated Spring 2026 Campus Schedule memo. Students can apply for on-campus housing for 26-27 through February 13, and applications are flooding in. Rising juniors and seniors are the students most likely to be waitlisted for on-campus housing. Plans are in place for basketball tournament time with watch parties, etc. Spring break is March 16-20. Spring weekend is March 27-29 and continues as a sanctioned event. Spring semester ends May 1, and the semester ends May 11.
- f. *Federal policies impacting students and residents.* T. Moran expressed concern for people in the community who may be at risk with increasing pressure on undocumented as well as documented visitors from other nations. J. Armstrong identified four areas at UConn which support undergraduates and graduates with social and academic needs. The Dean's Office along with the Center for International Scholars and Student Services under Global Affairs communicate regularly on specific issues. The Advisory Committee on Supporting our University Community with Temporary and/or Precarious Immigration Statuses also helps documented and undocumented students. UConn does not maintain records of whether students are documented or not. Many of the campus' cultural organizations are also active with students who need support and guidance.
- g. *Litter Reduction Working Group.* M. Chatey reported that UConn Office of Sustainability is looking to set a Don't Mess with Mansfield date, and may target UConn's Spring weekend. The Litter Working Group needs to be re-populated. S. Vasington suggested a representative of the Facilities department should be part of the group, and J. Armstrong urged students be tapped who desire community service projects.

Future Agenda Items

- Review the 2016 Memo of Agreement of Town-University Committee.
- Further discussion about Mansfield Public Safety plan (Pedestrians/Drivers)
- Assessment of availability of affordable housing for students

J. Armstrong moved to adjourn, seconded by S. Cowan. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Chatey, Administrator to the Committee

Next Meeting March 10, 2026 at 1 PM