

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

## MINUTES

In accordance with PA 22-3, this meeting will be hybrid. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 6:07 pm.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Present: Jeannine Kanadia, Debra Pallatto-Fontaine, Jane Fried, Hasana Davis

Excused: Grace Pereira Lopes

Staff: Jessica St. Louis, Monica Ferrara

Guests: Liz Vitullo

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 7, 2026

Debra Pallatto-Fontaine moved to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting, Jane Fried seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Hasana Davis moved to approve the agenda, Jane Fried seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

### 4. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Charge Revision Discussion

Members decided to table the charge revision until next month in hopes to talk with management about suggestions for a charge revision.

## **B. 2026 Mansfield Pride Discussion**

Jessica St. Louis gave an introduction on the new direction and new ideas for the Celebrate Pride Event. She said that they talked with towns that touch Mansfield to see if they can collaborate and support each other with various events including Pride. She was hoping to get some ideas and brainstorm with everyone.

Some ideas presented included having people tell their stories/story boards, activists giving a history of Pride, poetry, music, working with LBGTQIA2S+ businesses, getting the GSA at EO Smith involved, and more. The overall goals are to educate the community, bring recognition, and ensure the event is accessible to everyone (maybe changing the date and time of the event).

## **C. ICUC – Upcoming Events**

Islamic center at UCONN – had a rather well attended cultural event on Wednesday January 28, 2026. The next event will be postponed until May and Human Services believes they can provide a shuttle to the event.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Mansfield Human Rights Commission and NAACP Black History Month Kickoff Flyer and Event**

Jeannine Kanadia reported that there is a flyer that has been circulating for the event: Living Black History: Finding Lost Family & Honoring a Local Tuskegee Airman. The event is February 14, 2026, from 1-3 pm at the Mansfield Public Library.

### **B. Collaboration with NAACP on Witness Stones Project**

Jeannine Kanadia reported that she has been making contacts at the Windham NAACP Adult and Youth Council and is looking into expanding the Witness Stones Project at the Library to include Stopping Stones (memorial for racial healing). Debra Pallatto-Fontaine volunteered to reach out to the Mansfield Historical Society to inquire about the slavery exhibit they are going to curate this later this year.

### **C. Taste of Mansfield – Letter of Support**

Members briefly discussed the letter of support to increase the budget for Taste of Mansfield to include two events. Debra Pallatto-Fontaine moved to approve the letter of support for Taste of Mansfield, Hasana Davis seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

#### **D. Board of Education Letter**

Jeannine Kanadia, Chair, drafted a letter of support in support of the EO Smith's Equity Council's *Thrive Guide* to help freshman transition between eighth grade and high school. Hasana Davis moved to send the letter to the Town Manager, Ryan Aylesworth and Chief of Shared Services, Maria Capriola, for approval to send to the Region-19 Board of Education, Deb Pallatto-Fontaine seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

#### **E. Lions Club Support and Collaboration**

Jeannine Kanadia reported that she invited Craig Wultch to next week's meeting for further collaboration. They are looking to make greater connections with the Youth and Pride. The HRC will start brainstorming ideas for collaboration and outreach.

### **6. MEMBER REPORTS**

Debra Pallatto-Fontaine reported that is also working with NAACP's Legal Redress and Health Committee. The music directors at her church is hosting a concert in March focusing on peace and justice called Give Peace a Chance on March 15, 2026 at 3pm at the Second Congregational Church in Coventry.

*Debra Pallatto-Fontaine left the meeting at 7:14 pm.*

Hasana is working with Discourse and Deliberation on a community conversation on access to education. She is also still working with the Equity Council.

Jeannine Kanadia showed cards that were printed for people to know their constitutional rights in regard to ICE. She also discussed a project she has with the kids at the Community Center about growing respect.

Jane Fried stated that she watched the Henry Lewis Gates documentary on the connections between black and Jewish people in the United States and stated that it was fascinating. Jane would like to host a community conversation/series on race. She envisions a public conversation weekly for a few weeks. Hasana Davis volunteered to assist with the discussion.

### **7. COMMUNICATIONS**

UConn Dean of Students – Meeting Time for Mutual Support Discussion

### **8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Liz Vitullo introduced herself and said that she was interested in joining after hearing Jeannine Kanadia present at the Lions Club meeting. She has already submitted an application and looks forward to moving forward in the process. Liz works in the Office of University Compliance and Ethics at the University of Connecticut.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

With Debra Pallatto-Fontaine leaving, there was no longer a quorum. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.