MINUTES


Staff: M. Chatey, L. Painter, C. van Zelm,

Guests: Resident State Trooper’s Office: Sgt. S. King, Eastern Highlands Health District: R. Miller

Absent: V. Lorenz

Chair Moran called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM

1. Introduction of New Member: Brian Coleman
   Tabled

2. Public Comment
   No members of the public present

3. Meeting Minutes
   P. Aho moved the draft minutes for December 14 be approved, seconded by J. Armstrong. Minutes approved unanimously.

4. Updates
   a. Framework for Development. C. Workman reported that Dr. Radenka Maric has been named Interim President. Dr. Maric has been attending the Framework working group in her previous capacity overseeing Entrepreneurship at UConn. Next meeting is rescheduled to Feb. 18, and the intent is to present a working document of the framework to submit to the full group. R. Aylesworth expressed enthusiasm for Interim President Maric’s participation and her expressed commitment to the relationship. A. Moran offered an example of the value of the relationship in establishing continuity on an issue such as recreational cannabis in Mansfield. A search committee for a permanent president has not yet been established.
   b. Economic Development. C. van Zelm reported Merje has kicked off development of the town-wide signage plan with stakeholder interviews and site visits. She also shared details, participants and sponsor of Mansfield-Willi Restaurant Week February 21 to March 6, and detailed the promotional support.
c. **Opportunity Zone.** C. van Zelm shared that the Four-Town Economic Vitality team is seeking funding for an internship to assist with its strategic work. C. Workman reported that a plan is underway to connect UConn’s business-support resources with small businesses in the region. Virtual workshop topics include how to access UConn students as interns, hiring UConn graduates, technology incubation resources and the Small Business Development Center, for example. Promotion will be shared by UConn, chambers of commerce and the participating towns. R. Aylesworth added that the town’s proposed American Rescue Plan Act funding has an allocation to support Four-Town team work.

The Mayor revisited Item 1 and introduced new Town Council member Brian Coleman as a new member of this committee. B. Coleman introduced himself, including background on his many connections to the university as a student and as a former employee. The group expressed their welcome to Mr. Coleman.

d. **Mansfield Downtown Partnership.** C. van Zelm reported that MDP has reviewed the 3-year strategic plan with 19 strategies, 11 in tier 1. Responsibilities are being assigned. A. Moran noted that getting Downtown Storrs property owners more involved as partners is critical.

e. **Planning and Development Update.** L. Painter reported that Mansfield and UConn collaborated to submit a Community Challenge grant application to benefit the Eagleville Green and the South Eagleville corridor, and anticipating an April/May decision. Planning & Zoning Commission closed public comment on the application pending for the 392-unit mixed-use development called The Standard at Four Corners. Strong interest in housing development continues, with a proposed redevelopment of the 9-hole golf course on Storrs Road and interest in 19 acres next to the Nature’s Medicine location. P. Aho clarified that the proposal called only for townhouses, not apartments.

5. **UConn Construction Updates**
S. Vasington reminded the group that there is a [construction activity map](#) on the map detailing projects. He reported on the significant construction projects on campus that are ongoing including public safety, the central utility plant, and new hockey arena on south campus. Scoping meetings were held in December on new South Campus Residence Hall and improvements to Mirror Lake with post-scoping to be scheduled. An infrastructure project is also planned for Mirror Lake/Gilbert Road into S lot for spring 2023 work. Roofing is taking place at Alumni Residence Halls and at von der Mehden Recital Hall. B. Coleman asked about the intent of the Mirror Lake dredging, and S. Vasington explained it is for improved storm water control.

6. **Town COVID-19 Update**
R. Miller reported that COVID cases are declining locally, including at UConn, and this has been consistent for four weeks. The incidence rate is 44.7 per 100,000 population. Clinics are still available without appointments at the Town Hall for adults on Monday and for children 5 and older on Thursday afternoons. The state is lifting mask mandates for schools and daycares, and EHHD will push out guidance locally based on state guidelines. EHHD will be working with the Town of Mansfield and Town attorney on the
recent changes to the Governor’s executive order. R. Aylesworth reported that the Town has distributed three rounds of home test kits and masks to key stakeholders, next sharing with the faith-based community. J. Armstrong reported that UConn students can pick up at-home antigen tests at three locations to provide additional level of protection.

7. Other Business
   a. Pedestrian Safety. R. Aylesworth reported that improvements on Storrs Rd. and South Eagleville are likely for 2022 resulting from the UConn/Town/DOT meeting, but no specific details have been shared by DOT responding to uncontrolled sidewalks improvements. The Town has applied for a grant for additional safety and sidewalk improvements. A. Moran reported that DOT had no record of the crossing improvement request near von der Mehden Recital Hall to the Dog Lane. C. Workman reported that UConn Public Safety intends to launch a public safety campaign. B. Coleman said that pedestrian behavior is concerning, and that a safety campaign is worthwhile. L. Forand said that student groups and clubs are interested in backing such a campaign out of concern. S. Vasington shared that UConn is beginning work on a transportation plan that includes a pedestrian safety component. Students will be asked about unsafe areas in town. T. Moran noted that WRTD has proposed changing bus routes around campus, such as along Hunting Lodge Rd. L. Forand added that safe biking and bike-friendly paths are also an interest of students, especially along Stafford Rd./Rte. 32.
   b. Encouraging Students to frequent Downtown Storrs Businesses. T. Moran proposed tabling until next meeting
   c. Parking. T. Moran proposed tabling until next meeting.
   d. Issues related to Hotel on Campus. T. Moran proposed tabling until next meeting

8. Future Agenda Items.
   A. Moran suggested that transportation issues be added as a topic for the next meeting.

B. Coleman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 PM, seconded by J. Armstrong. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Chatey
Administrator to the Committee

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 1:00 PM