

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

MINTUES

In accordance with PA 21-2 §149 and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC to slow community spread of COVID-19, 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

Chair, Jane Fried called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Allopenna, Fricano, Fried, Hosmer, Kanadia, Nocton, Vaughan (arrival noted below)

Excused: Alfred-Abney

Student Volunteers: Derek Cameron, Felicia Famularo

Staff: Virginia Walton, Monica Ferrara

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 8, 2023

April 12, 2023

Amy Nocton moved to approve the minutes from March 8, 2023 and April 12, 2023, Esme Allopenna seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

4. EQUITY STATEMENT DISCUSSION

Guest Speaker Virginia Walton, Staff

Virginia Walton presented on Sustainable CT and the ways that the Human Rights Commission can help, especially in the way of forming an equity statement.

Vaughan arrived at 7:05 pm.

Members briefly discussed ways that the HRC can assist in ensuring the Town of Mansfield earns Gold Status with Sustainable CT. Including discussions with the community, drafting an equity statement, and attending equity trainings. The HRC will remain in touch with Virginia Walton for additional information and progress.

5. MEMBER REPORTS

Esme Allopenna reported that this would most likely be her last meeting, as she is going off to college. Felicia Famularo, student volunteer, also stated that this would probably be her last meeting.

Felicia Famularo, student volunteer, reported that UCONN is hosting a Human Rights film festival this weekend.

Amy Nocton reported that the Deliberation and Discourse (DD) group is tabling a forum until the fall on reinventing Region 19 and looking at sustainability, access issues, etc. She also reported that EO Smith students are going to be watching performances and then DD students will be leading discussions on LBGTQIA+ issues and how to have voice if you see something. GSA is also getting ready for Pride month.

Jane Fried reported that she met with people at the senior center and learned about affordable housing. She wrote letters to Greg Haddad to voice their frustrations. Barbara Vaughan concurred that this was an issue that seniors in town have also brought up to her.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Affordable Housing Check In

Jane Fried and Esme Allopenna reported on some of the workings of the Affordable Housing Committee.

B. Pride Month and Pride Month Proclamation

Members briefly discussed the Pride Month Proclamation.

Barbara Vaughan moved to send the Pride Month Proclamation to the Town Council, Sabrina Hosmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Vaughan moved to change the Agenda so the Commission could discuss the Juneteenth proclamation after the Pride Month Proclamation, Jeanine Kanadia seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Members briefly discussed having a table at the Pride event on June 9th 2023. Jeannine Kanadia said she would be able to attend, and Amy Nocton will also be in attendance.

C. Community Conversations

Jane Fried discussed her desire to complete community conversations. She has three possible topics, equity with Retion-19, multi-cultural storytelling, and getting to know different faith traditions in Mansfield.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Juneteenth Proclamation and Posters

Members briefly discussed the Juneteenth Proclamation and some edits that needed to be made including adding Towns that recognize Juneteenth, changing language in the Proclamation, etc.

Barbara Vaughan moved that the Human Rights Commission endorse the Juneteenth proclamation pending revision by Monica (staff) and Jane, Esme Allopenna seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Jane Fried reported the beautiful posters that were used last year for Juneteenth were revised and will be used again this year.

B. Senior Center Discussion

Jane Fried discussed this in her member report (see above).

8. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Esme Allopenna moved, Jeannine Kanadia seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm motion passed with all in favor.

Monica Ferrara, Assistant Town Clerk