

Town of Mansfield  
Community Service Awards Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 27, 2020

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MANSFIELD  
MASSACHUSETTS

**Present:** Neil Rhein, Chair; Kara Griffin, Clerk; Lt. Roy Bain; Teresa Murphy; Rose Kimmel; Christopher George, Recorder;

**Guests:** None

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Community Service Awards Committee was called to order at 7:02pm by Chair Neil Rhein.

**II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes**

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

**\*Motion to accept Minutes from December 9, 2019 made by Lt. Bain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Murphy.  
Vote 5-0 PASSED**

**III. Review of 12/18 Awards Ceremony**

Mr. Rhein asks for feedback on the awards ceremony. Ms. Kimmel says there were a lot more people involved and it went really well. Lt. Bain says it seemed to move much smoother than last year. Ms. Murphy says it was great that the winners brought people with them.

Ms. Kimmel asks who Mr. Rhein called. Mr. Rhein says he called the nominators. He says in the case of the youth, he first called the nominators and then called the parents. He says he emailed all the nominators whose nomination did not win to let them know that they'll be holding the nominations for next year.

**IV. Review of Community Service Awards Webpage**

Mr. Rhein asks Mr. George to show the committee the webpage. Mr. Rhein asks the committee to think of items that can go onto the website. He says to direct any items to himself and he will send them to Mr. George.

Mr. Rhein says he's been asked to put this committee within the Annual Report. He says he's used the material from the Town Website and his Newsletter to compile a page.

**V. Review of Committee Member Terms**

Mr. Rhein asks Mr. George about the application process. Mr. George will send the committee the application forms after this meeting.

**VI. Discussion and Vote on whether to add a "group award" or "organization award" category**

Ms. Murphy says, at first, she thought this was a great idea. She says that she is concerned about some unintended consequences in regards to what defines a "group".

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Ms. Griffin says she loves the idea of a group but it comes down to the definition of the language. Ms. Murphy says they've seen people who are a group but not officially a group; such as friends of the library. Ms. Griffin says it could be defined as a civic group. Lt. Bain says his concern with a group is that, if a group is 50 people, then all 50 people may nominate the group and this could affect the metrics of how they vote.

Ms. Kimmel says she likes the idea but there could be complications; such as the number of people in the group. Mr. Rhein says, after seeing the plaque, he says his feelings change towards not having a group. He says he sees the plaque as more powerful with the names listed. He says if they do it for groups, then the plaque will fill with groups and they might eventually run out of groups.

Lt. Bain says what would happen if Keep Mansfield Beautiful won. Would Mr. Rhein present the award to his own group. Ms. Griffin says it's the same when they do the teacher awards because all teachers bring something to the table. Ms. Murphy asks where the plaque will be posted. Mr. Rhein says the Town Manager will decide where it goes.

Ms. Kimmel asks if it's a group, then will it be a separate plaque. Lt. Bain suggests if it's a different plaque then they do a different ceremony. Mr. Rhein says that by recognizing the individual that works for a group you will also recognize that group. Lt. Bain says that the groups get a shout out by their individual winning. Ms. Kimmel says they could do a group every other year.

**\*Motion to allow groups as a category made by Lt. Bain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Murphy. 0-5 FAILED**

#### **VII. Discussion and Vote on when to open nomination period for 2020**

Mr. Rhein asks when they should open the nomination period. Ms. Griffin suggests they leave it open all year round and advertise it closer to September. Ms. Kimmel agrees that if they open it up now then it would provide more time for people to nominate. Lt. Bain says it's a good idea.

Ms. Murphy asks if Ms. Champagne can put it on the first Select Board agenda in September. This way it'll be up front before the deadline.

**\*Motion to have the 2020 Nominations open from now until October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 made by Ms. Griffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Bain, Vote 5-0 PASSED**

#### **VIII. Visitor Comments**

-None

#### **IX. Items Not Known 48 Hours Prior to Meeting**

-None

**X. Adjournment**

**\*Motion to adjourn at 7:33pm made by Ms. Murphy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Bain Vote 5-0 PASSED**

Kara Griffin  
Signature of Clerk

2/4/2021  
Date Approved