

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 21 August 2019
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
(draft) MINUTES

Members present: Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann, Will Ouimet (Alt.), John Silander, Michael Soares. *Members absent:* Erin King, Mary Harper, Genevieve Rigler (Alt.), Chadwick Rittenhouse. *Others present:* Derek Dilaj (Public Works), Jennifer Kaufman (Wetlands Agent).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:10p by Chair Michael Soares. In the absence of three members, Alternate Ouimet was entitled to vote at this meeting. {Chad Rittenhouse, delayed by tornado warnings, arrived shortly after the meeting adjourned.}

2. The **draft minutes** of the meeting of 19 June 2019 were accepted as written without dissent. {The regular July meeting was cancelled.}

3. IWA referral: W1610 (Town of Mansfield, Hillyndale Rd culvert replacement). The Town proposes to replace the culvert through which Eagleville Brook passes under Hillyndale Rd. According to Derek Dilaj, a section of the bottom of the existing culvert has rusted away, compromising its structural integrity. If nothing is done, the culvert will eventually collapse. It is preferable to address the problem now, when impacts on the brook can be anticipated and managed. The alternative of removing the damaged culvert and not replacing it – i.e., closing the road at the brook – was considered but rejected as too disruptive.

The proposed replacement is a concrete box culvert, 16'W x 6.5'H, placed one foot below streambed, so that a quasi-natural streambed can be established within it. The 6.5' height of the culvert, allowing passage of large wildlife, is dictated by federal guidelines for projects constructed with federal money, as this one would be. 940 ft² of wetland and watercourse would be disrupted during construction.

After some discussion, the Commission unanimously agreed (**motion:** Kessel, Silander) that, while the project may have a significant impact on the brook, it should proceed, given the need to address the problem of the failing culvert.

4. Proposed grant application for Simpson-Wood Preserve trails. An application to The Last Green Valley (TLGV) for a \$7.5K Community Enrichment Grant to enable public access to the new 114 acre Simpson-Wood Preserve has been prepared. Such grants require matching funds from the Town. If approved by the Town Council and funded by TLGV, the grant would finance development of trails, signage, maps and trail guides by the Town and BSA Troop 56. The Commission unanimously agreed (**motion:** Kessel, Ouimet) to support the Town's application for this grant.

5. Notifications.

a. Kessel agreed to continue serving on the **Water System Advisory Committee**.

b. The IWA has not yet acted on **W1349-1 (Roby, Brookside La)** proposing a new driveway across wetlands (see Commission minutes of 19 June 2019, item 4). A public hearing has been scheduled for 3 September 2019.

c. A report on Spring 2019 testing of water from wells monitoring contamination from the old **UConn chemical dump** was included in the packet for this meeting. The dedicated reader will find that various contaminants remain detectable, some at levels greater than recommended by the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC).

6. Adjourned at 7:42p. Next meeting: 7:00p, Wednesday, 18 September 2019. Its agenda is likely to include referrals on proposed multi-unit housing projects.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 22 August 2019.