

MINUTES

Members Present:	Q. Kessel, E. King, W. Ouimet, C. Rittenhouse, M. Soares
Members Absent:	M. Harper, J. Silander
Alternates Present:	M. Davis
Alternates Absent:	
Staff Present:	J. Kaufman

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Soares called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Members present are Q. Kessel, E. King, W. Ouimet, C. Rittenhouse, M. Soares, and alternate Davis. Alternate Davis is seated for absent member Harper.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

- No comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ouimet MOVED, Kessel seconded approval of the September 22, 2020 Special Meeting minutes with minor edits addressed.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule

- We will continue to try to hold Cons Comm meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We may need to be flexible to minimize conflict with committee/commissions.

B. 2021 Work Plan

- Potential items for the 2021 work plan include:
 - Stream Belt Zoning
 - Upland Review Area
 - Impervious Cover in Watersheds
 - Easement Monitoring
 - Wetlands Applications
 - Water Quality Monitoring
 - Educational Programs

- Partnerships with other Committees or Commissions
- Silver Certification with Sustainable CT – ongoing process
- Equity

C. Stream Belt Zoning Next Steps

- The Upland Review Area does not have protection status; it is identified simply as adjacent to wetlands and subject to review. Many of our reviews have been of development right to the edge of the wetland
- Other towns have created an overlay that restricts development adjacent to wetlands and watercourses, effectively creating a buffer that further protects the wetlands and watercourses. A Summary of Overlay Zone Regulations by Charles Vidich is included in the packet for this meeting
- The Town of Mansfield zoning regulations are being updated currently. Nothing in the present zoning regulations provides protection or restrictions within the Upland Review Area
- On October 2, 2018, Cons Comm initiated discussion of streambelt zoning and presented to Planning and Zoning Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency Regulatory Review Committee. This discussion included presentation of streambelt zones in GIS (developed by Julia Rogers, past Cons Comm member), which we have in hand
- Cons Comm agreed this topic is worth addressing at the November 2020 meeting. Moving parts that need addressing: what would the buffer be applied to? How current is that data? What is the buffer itself – how far, how restrictive, where does it start relative to wetland or watercourse? What are the mechanisms for the buffer – zoning district, overlay, setback, delineation, other?

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Impervious Cover-Impact to Groundwater- See pp 17-18 of the CLEAR Report

- Kessel submitted a Statement on Impervious Surface and a recommended motion

Kessel MOVED, Ouimet seconded: The Conservation Commission recommends that the Mansfield PZC/IWA set a limit on the maximum impervious surface that it allows within a given watershed (or sub-watershed).

Motion PASSED 6-0 with no abstentions.

As a first step towards enacting this motion, the Conservation Commission recommends that the Mansfield PZC/IWA request an applicant to provide via their application the percent of impervious surface within the watershed, at present and as proposed with the development.

Cons Comm anticipates providing guidance or recommendations on additional steps to enact the motion upon request from PZC/IWA. Anticipated issues include reaching out to topic experts on impervious surfaces (e.g., Michael Dietz, UConn Extension), connected vs disconnected impervious surfaces, specifying the level of watershed, and potential legal issues or precedence.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- None

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were noted:

- Jennifer Kaufman
 - Ryan Aylesworth – currently Town Manager of Enfield, New Hampshire, will start as Town Manager of Mansfield on December 1, 2020
 - Inland Wetlands Agency Monthly Report (date: 2020-10-05)
 - Per a Violation in progress, a pond on Chaffeeville Rd will have a proposal for restoration forthcoming

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for November 18, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Chadwick Rittenhouse".

Chadwick Rittenhouse
Secretary