

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 17 February 2010
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
MINUTES

Members present: Robert Dahn, Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann, Joan Stevenson. *Members absent:* Peter Drzewiecki, John Silander, Frank Trainor. *Others present:* Grant Meitzler (staff).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:33p by Chair Quentin Kessel.
2. The draft **minutes of the 20 January 2010 meeting**, with a minor clarification suggested by Kessel in the first bullet of item 2, were approved.
3. Kessel reported that:
 - Rich Miller has asked to appear before the Commission regarding UConn's **Mirror Lake dredging** project and **stormwater management plan**; Kessel has suggested the Commission's March meeting. {Kessel later displayed photographic evidence that the outflow from Swan Lake into the Fenton River drainage does indeed discharge into a watercourse. UConn's claim that it does not discharge into Roberts Brook may be correct (if Mirror Lake is the source of Roberts Brook), but it is not relevant to the issue of whether the diversion needs a discharge permit from DPH.}
 - Town Council policies (a) **limiting terms** for members of committees, commissions, and boards and (b) **prohibiting communication** of "comments or concerns on issues of town-wide importance to ... State or private parties" by advisory boards are under review.
 - The joint **presentation on the value of open space** (by members of the Open Space Preservation and Parks Advisory Committees and the Commission) to the Town Council is now scheduled for 8 March 2010.
4. The Commission has received a copy of the application to the Connecticut Siting Council for a **Verizon cell phone tower** on Daleville Road in Willington. Its environmental impact on Mansfield appears to be limited visibility from certain nearby locations in town.
5. The Open Space Preservation Committee is proposing that PZC regulations provide for a **preliminary site plan review**, enabling developers to meet with planning officials and perhaps representatives of advisory committees to discuss development options before a lot of money is invested in a detailed site plan. The Committee believes that raising environmental issues in advance could encourage more environmentally sensitive development. A **motion** (Stevenson, Dahn) to endorse the idea of preliminary site plan reviews passed unanimously.
6. The Town's **inland wetland regulations** have been redrafted to conform to the State's model regulations. In his quick review of the document, Kessel didn't notice any substantive changes, and Meitzler indicated there were none of any importance.
7. UConn has commented on DEP's proposed **streamflow regulations**, arguing for provisions that would allow the University to ignore its agreement with DEP to maintain flows in the Fenton River by managing withdrawals from its Fenton River well-field, should a severe drought create a "public health risk" by limiting what could be extracted from UConn's Willimantic River well-field.

7. Adjourned at 8:15p. Next meeting: Wednesday, 17 March 2010, 7:30p.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 18 February 2010; approved 17 March 2010.