

AGENDA

Mansfield Conservation Commission
Wednesday, May 19, 2010
Audrey P. Beck Building
CONFERENCE ROOM B
7:30 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
4. Minutes
 - a. April 21, 2010
5. New Business
 - a. IWA Referrals: W1453 - Gottmann - Gurleyville R - deck in 150' area
 - b. Discussion regarding Charter Communications pole mounted utility boxes with green lights
 - c. Other
6. Continuing Business (see update memo from Director of Planning)
 - a. PZC Referrals (6/17/10 Public Hearing)
 - Invasive Species - Aquifer and Public Water Supply Protection - Pleasant Valley Area Zoning
 - b. UConn Agronomy Farm Irrigation Project (project update to be provided at Town-University Relations Committee Meeting)
 - c. UConn Drainage Issues: Swan Lake Discharge, Mirror Lake Dredging, Other
 - d. USDA Animal Health Research Facility- UConn Depot Campus (public information session Scheduled for May 18th, 7pm at Bishop Center)
 - e. Eagleville Brook Impervious Surface TMDL Project (public information session expected to be held on June 4th)
 - f. Natchaug River Basin project (Updated information available at www.greenvalleyinstitute.org/NCAP.htm)
 - g. UConn Hazardous Waste Transfer Station (no new information)
 - h. Water Supply Issues -(Willimantic Wellfield Study-final report expected in May)
 - i. Ponde Place Student Housing Project (no new information)
 - j. Conservation Commission Administrative Issues; Term Limits, Role/Responsibility, Communications, etc.
 - k. CT Siting Council Application for a Verizon Telecommunication Tower in Willington off of Daleville Road (5/25/10 public hearing scheduled by CT. Siting Council)
 - l. CL&P "Interstate Reliability Project" (awaiting assessment of need update-filing not expected until summer/fall 2010)
 - m. Other
7. Communications
 - a. Minutes
 - Open Space (4/20/10) • PZC (4/19/10 and 5/3/10) • IWA (5/3/10)
 - b. Inland Wetland Agent Monthly Activity Report
 - c. Spring 2010 "Willimantic River Review"
 - d. Joshua's Tract Annual Report Issue 2010
 - e. Other Correspondence
8. Other
9. Future Agendas
10. Adjournment

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Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 21 April 2010
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
(DRAFT) MINUTES

Members present: Peter Drzewiecki, Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann, Frank Trainor. *Members absent:* Robert Dahn, John Silander, Joan Stevenson. *Others present:* Grant Meitzler (Wetlands Agent), Greg Padick (Town Planner); Neil Faccinetti, Karl Guillard, John Rickards (residents).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:39p by Chair Quentin Kessel.

2. Public Comment. Neil Faccinetti expressed concerns about the potential ‘neighborhood effects’ of the University’s new turf research program at the agronomy farm on Spring Hill. These operations require additional water for irrigation, and four new production wells have been drilled; what effect might the extra withdrawal of groundwater have on nearby wells? The operations also involve surface applications of fertilizer and other chemicals; how might runoff affect water quality in nearby wells? There is supposed to be a monitoring program to assess these risks, but Mr. Faccinetti raised questions about its design and operation:

- Of the 4 deep monitoring wells called for, one is a production well that failed to supply sufficient water and was re-designated a monitoring well, while a second encountered a rock collapse during drilling. Can data from these defective wells really testify to the whether the withdrawals are mining groundwater in the area?
- Surface water quality is supposed to be monitored by testing for nitrates in 2 shallow wells. Is this sufficient, given that other chemicals are being used on the turf fields?
- There does not appear to be any provision for monitoring neighborhood wells. 4 such wells were monitored in 2008 during a test pumping from existing agronomy farm wells, but that was before the new production wells were drilled.
- Are monitoring instruments installed in the monitoring wells? How often are data collected? Will these data be made available to the public for review?

Greg Padick indicated that, while the Town has no jurisdiction over the use of State land, it’s his understanding that the University administration is willing to answer questions and to attempt to address concerns about land use issues. The Commission agreed unanimously (**motion:** Trainor, Drzewiecki) to invite the University to send representatives to its 5/19 meeting to answer questions from residents about well-monitoring at the agronomy farm. {Faccinetti, Guillard, & Rickards left the meeting.}

3. The draft **minutes of the 17 March 2010 meeting**, with deletion of the first return address on the letter to Denise Ruzicka, were approved.

4. PZC referrals. Padick outlined proposed amendments to zoning and subdivision regulations on which hearings are scheduled for 6/7. The Commission will discuss them at its May meeting.

- a. **Invasive species.** Sentences prohibiting use of invasive species (as defined by the DEP) in landscaping applications would be added to PZC regulations.
- b. **Aquifer protection.** Language designed to raise the profile of aquifer and public water supply protection would be added to PZC regulations. Applicants would be required to map aquifers within 500’ of a proposed development. Padick noted that the proposed language diverges somewhat from the Commission’s recommendations: (i) aquifer protection would be

the responsibility of the PZC (rather than the IWA), (ii) the new language speaks generally of “aquifers” rather than of “stratified drift aquifers”, (i) the pre-application reviews urged by the Commission are still being studied by the PZC.

5. Gag Rule. Padick passed along to the Commission a 19 April memo from the Town Clerk indicating that the Committee on Committees has recommended to the Town Council that the 2/3/00 Policy Regarding Advisory Committees’ Communications with Outside Agencies be reaffirmed without change.

6. Pleasant Valley rezoning. Padick summarized for the Commission a draft of proposed zoning changes for the area south of Pleasant Valley Rd. The Pleasant Valley Industrial Park Zone (a relic of the days when routing I-84 from Hartford to Providence was promoted as an economic development project) would be rezoned into three sections: RAR-90 to the west of Mansfield Avenue, Pleasant Valley Commercial Agriculture (PVCA), allowing limited commercial development, and Pleasant Valley Residence Agriculture (PVRA) to the east. This area has prime agricultural soils overlying a large aquifer, as well as significant scenic values, but it is also one of the few areas in town served by public water and sewer and therefore suitable for multi-family housing. This rezoning proposal, which the Commission will consider at its May meeting, is the PZC’s latest attempt to reconcile preservation and development here. Among other things, it would require a 500’ setback from Pleasant Valley Road for any structure. {Padick left the meeting.}

7. Kessel reported that:

- a. He and Padick will attend a **Natchaug River Basin Project** meeting on 4/29. This group is being organized to help implement a conservation action plan for the basin.
- b. Bonding authority for **open space** purchase will be on the November ballot.
- c. The DEP has written to Rich Miller regarding UConn’s permit for work on the **Swan L. outfall** asking for documents relating to concerns raised by the Commission about shortcomings in the UConn’s application for the permit and requesting that no work be done under the permit until the DEP has reviewed this material.
- d. A response from Baystate Environmental Consultants to the Commission’s concerns about the **Mirror L. dredging project** has been sent to the DEP, pursuant to its request for more information about the project. It is in the packet for this meeting.

8. IWA referrals.

- a. **W1450 (Town of Mansfield).** The Town has negotiated an easement across the Healy property in Mansfield Center to provide access from Bassetts Bridge Road to town-owned fields adjacent to the Old Mansfield Center Cemetery. A 12’ wide gated gravel road between Healy’s barn and the kettle bog is proposed to permit passage of mowing machinery. The Commission unanimously agreed (**motion:** Trainor, Drzewiecki) with Meitzler’s assessment that no significant impact on the bog is to be expected, provided standard erosion controls are employed during construction. {Lehmann participated in the 4/14 IWA field trip to this site; his report is attached.}
- b. **W1451 (Town of Mansfield).** A few sections of the Town’s wetlands regulations relating to the expiration of permits are to be slightly revised as required by a change in state statutes. No comment appears to be necessary or useful.

9. Adjourned at 9:21p. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 19 May 2010

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 23 April 2010

Attachment: Report on 14 April 2010 IWA Field Trip

W1450 (Healey Property, 476 Storrs Rd). This is a remnant of the Eaton Farms property in Mansfield Center, extending from relatively narrow frontage on Rte 195 back to the kettle bog. The Town is negotiating a right-of-way across the slight slope between the old barn and the bog to provide pedestrian and farm access from Bassetts Bridge Rd to Town-owned land between the Healey property and the Old Mansfield Cemetery, and is proposing to construct a 12' wide gravel road here for haying operations. There is not much distance between the barn and the bog – the edge of the proposed road would be only about 25' from the bog. However, a road of this sort would probably protect the bog from the sedimentation to be expected, were farm machinery simply driven over the grassy slope.

PAGE
BREAK

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
4 SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD, STORRS, CT 06268
TEL: 860-429-3334 OR 429-3330
FAX: 860-429-6863

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
File #
W 1453
Fee Paid 185
Official Date of Receipt _____

Applicants are referred to the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations for complete requirements, and are obligated to follow them. For assistance, please contact Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetlands Agent at the telephone numbers above.

Please print or type or use similar format for computer; attach additional pages as necessary.

Part A - Applicant

Name Karen + Clifford Gottmann

Mailing Address 580 Gurleyville Rd

Storrs CT Zip 06268

Telephone-Home 860-429-1097 Telephone-Business ^{cell} 860-918-3066

Title and Brief Description of Project
Deck

Location of Project 580 Gurleyville Rd. Storrs

Intended Start Date Mid-June 2010

Part B - Property Owner (if applicant is the owner, just write "same")

Name Same

Mailing Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone-Home _____ Telephone-Business _____

Owner's written consent to the filing of this application, if owner is not the applicant:

Signature _____ date _____

Applicant's interest in the land: (if other than owner) _____

Part C - Project Description (attach extra pages, if necessary)

1) Describe in detail the proposed activity here or on an attached page. (See guidelines at end of application – page 6.)

Please include a description of all activity or construction or disturbance:

- a) in the wetland/watercourse
- b) in the area **adjacent** to (within 150 feet from the edge of) the wetland/watercourse, even if wetland/watercourse is **off** your property

B Adjacent to wetlands - 4 surface footings in support of Pressure treated dock. closest work is 63' from wetland

A - No work in wetlands

2) Describe the amount or area of disturbance (in square feet or cubic yards or acres):

- a) in the wetland/watercourse
- b) in the area **adjacent** to (within 150 feet from the edge of) the wetland/watercourse, even if wetland/watercourse is **off** your property

B 24 Footings 324 square foot deck surface

A - No work 30 cubic feet total footing

3) Describe the type of materials you are using for the project:

16" concrete block over 16x24" paver stone. Block filled with concrete with bolt to hold posts

- a) include **type** of material used as fill or to be excavated concrete block
- b) include **volume** of material to be filled or excavated 30 cubic feet

4) Describe measures to be taken to minimize or avoid any adverse impacts on the wetlands and regulated areas (silt fence, staked hay bales or other Erosion and Sedimentation control measures).

Disturbance minimal if at all

Part D - Site Description

Describe the general character of the land. (Hilly? Flat? Wooded? Well drained? etc.)

sloping, well drained

Part E - Alternatives

Have you considered any alternatives to your proposal that would meet your needs and might have less impact on the wetland/watercourse? Please list these alternatives.

No real Alternative to create a usable deck accessible from
existing interior walk paths/hallways

Part F - Map/Site Plan (all applications)

1) Attach to the application a map or site plan showing **existing conditions** and the **proposed project** in relation to wetland/ watercourses. Scale of map or site plan should be 1" = 40'; if this is not possible, please indicate the scale that you are using. A sketch map may be sufficient for small, minor projects. (See guidelines at end of application – page 6.)

2) Applicant's map date and date of last revision _____

3) Zone Classification _____

4) Is your property in a flood zone? Yes No Don't Know

Part G - Major Applications Requiring Full Review and a Public Hearing

See Section 6 of the Mansfield Regulations for additional requirements.

Part H - Notice to Abutting Property Owners

1) List the names and addresses of abutting property owners

Name	Address
Norman Kelly	546 Gurleyville Rd Storrs
Hans Franzen	584 Gurleyville Rd Storrs
Scott Plimpton	627 Wormwood Hill Rd Mansfield Center

Wetlands application in process for deck within 150' of wetlands
If questions call 860-429-3334

2) **Written Notice to Abutters**. You must notify abutting property owners by certified mail, return receipt requested, stating that a wetland application is in progress, and that abutters may contact the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agent for more information. Include a brief description of your project. **Postal receipts of your notice to abutters must accompany your application.** (This is not needed for exemptions).

Part I - Additional Notices, if necessary

1) Notice to Windham Water Works is attached. If this application is in the public watershed for the Windham Water Works (WWW), you must notify the WWW of your project within 7 days of sending the application to Mansfield--sending it by certified mail, return receipt requested. Contact the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agent to find out if you are in this watershed.

2) Notice to Adjoining Town. If your property is within 500 feet of an adjoining town, you must also send a copy of the application, on the same day you sent one to Mansfield, to

the Inland Wetlands Agency of the adjoining town, by certified mail, return receipt requested.

- 3) The Statewide Reporting Form (attached) shall be part of the application and specified parts must be completed and returned with this application.

Part J - Other Impacts To Adjoining Towns, if applicable

- 1) Will a significant portion of the traffic to the completed project on the site use streets within the adjoining municipality to enter or exit the site? ___ Yes No ___ Don't Know
- 2) Will sewer or water drainage from the project site flow through and impact the sewage or drainage system within the adjoining municipality? ___ Yes No ___ Don't Know
- 3) Will water run-off from the improved site impact streets or other municipal or private property within the adjoining municipality? ___ Yes No ___ Don't Know

Part K - Additional Information from the Applicant

Set forth (or attach) any other information which would assist the Agency in evaluating your application. (Please provide extra copies of any lengthy documents or reports, and extra copies of maps larger than 8.5" x 11", which are not easily copied.)

Part L - Filing Fee

Submit the appropriate filing fee. (Consult Wetlands Agent for the fee schedule available in the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.)

___ \$1,000. ___ \$750. ___ \$500. ___ \$250. ~~___ \$125.~~ ___ \$100. ___ \$50. ___ \$25.
X ~~\$125~~
check # 4836

___ \$60 State DEP Fee

Note: The Agency may require you to provide additional information about the regulated area which is the subject of the application, or about wetlands or watercourses affected by the regulated activity. If the Agency, upon review of your application, finds the activity proposed may involve a "significant activity" as defined in the Regulations, additional information and/or a public hearing may be required.

The undersigned applicant hereby consents to necessary and proper inspections of the above mentioned property by members and agents of the Inland Wetlands Agency, at reasonable times, both before and after the permit in question has been granted by the Agency.


Applicant's Signature

4/27/10
Date

299.80'

S 83°-11'-53" E

12-03

HPTON
TILE ROAD

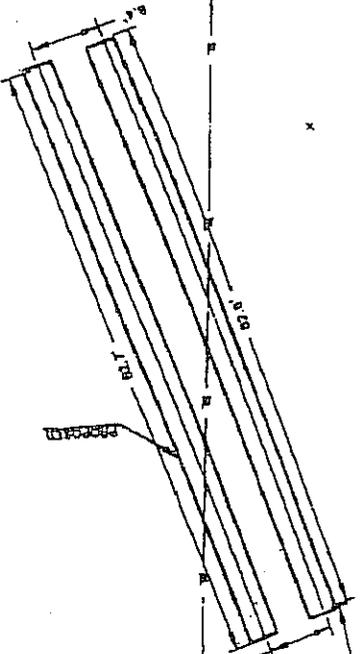
Gottmann
4-26-2010

From
7/22/1999

123

WOOD ROAD

N 4°-48'-07" E
215.00'



HOUSE & SITE ON AS STAGED 2/19/02

EXISTING
4' x 8'

51.98'

46.6'

63.5'

30.50'

58.01'

30.47'

1.98'

SC

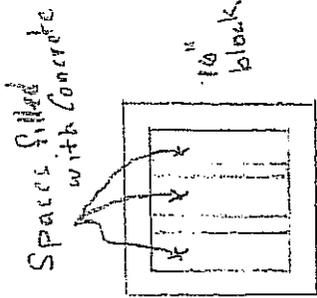
S 83°-11'

1017
12 50
DEF - D-43

S 83°-07'-53" E
150.00'

DEF - 0.17
1078
HOLD FOR L&C

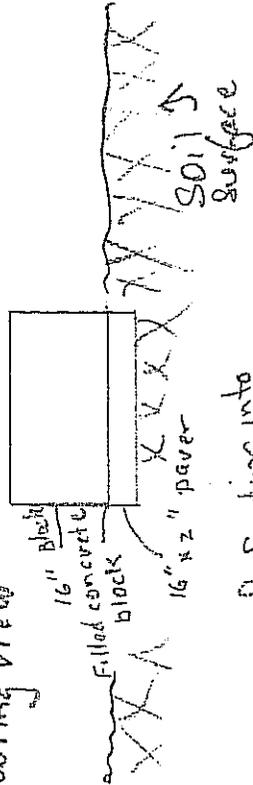
to Gurbeyville Rd



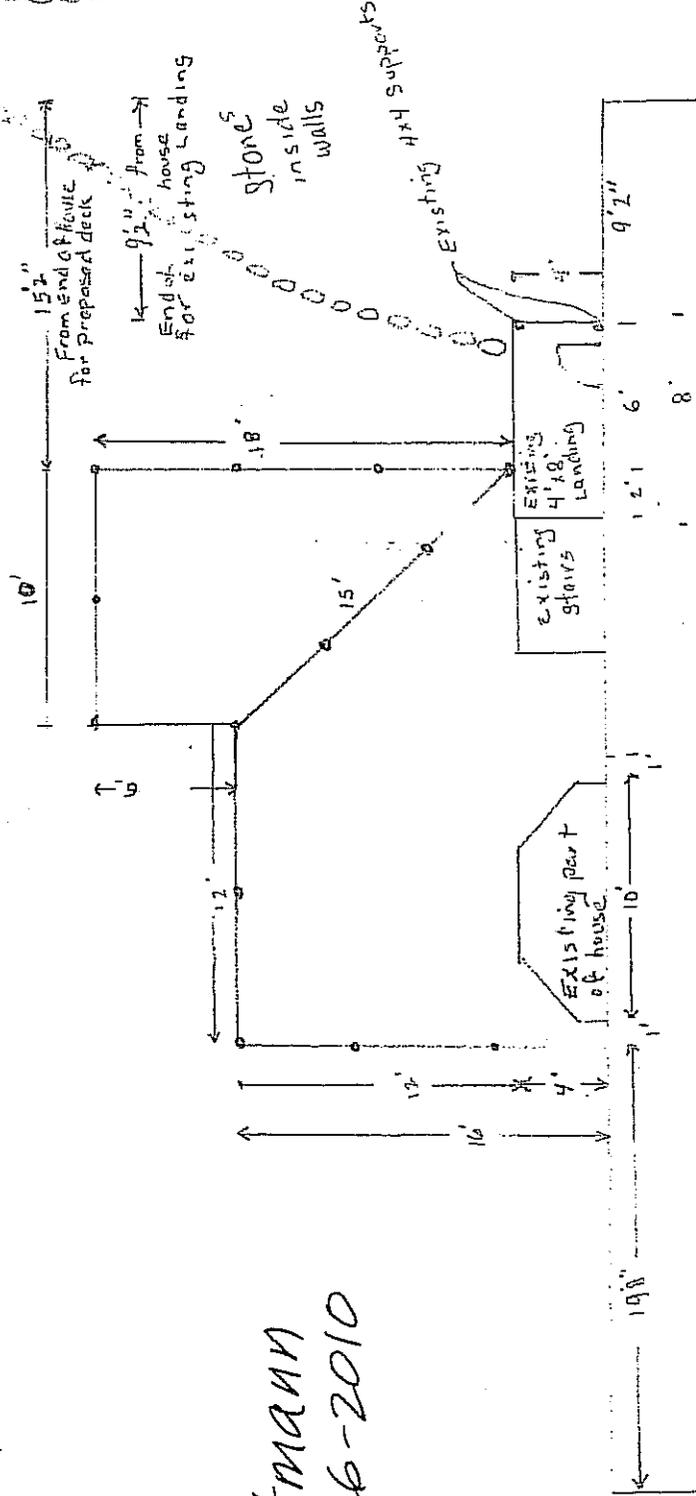
Footings on each corner minimum 6' apart

Footings will be filled 16" concrete blocks sitting on top of 16" x 2" concrete paving stone all of which will be on top of compacted earth.

Footing view



Depth of footing into soil base on depth of compaction



Crottmann
4-26-2010

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

GREGORY J. PADICK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Memo to: Mansfield Conservation Commission
From: Gregory Padick, Director of Planning
Date: 5/13/10
Re: 5/19/10 Conservation Commission Agenda Items



The following comments provide more information on a number of the 5/19/10 agenda items:

1. New IWA Referral

The packet includes application materials describing a proposed deck at 580 Gurleyville Road. A field trip has not been scheduled for this application.

2. PZC Referrals

Proposed Zoning and Subdivision revisions were discussed at the 4/21/10 meeting. Any Conservation Commission comments must be received by the PZC prior to the close of the public hearing. The hearing will be opened on 6/7/10 and it is uncertain whether the hearing will be continued beyond 6/7/10.

3. Agronomy Farm Irrigation Project

A project update will be provided by UConn at a Town-University Relations Committee meeting, which is considered the most appropriate forum for discussing this project. The next Town-University Relations Committee meeting will be on June 8th but it has not yet been determined if the Agronomy Farm project will be included on the 6/8/10 agenda. These meetings usually start at 4pm.

4. USDA Animal Health Research Facility

A public information session has been scheduled for May 18th of 7pm at the Bishop Center. I have included in the CC packet power point slides from a presentation provided to the Town-University Relations Committee in January.

5. UConn Drainage Issues

At previous Conservation Commission meetings issues have been raised regarding UConn drainage projects and in particular DEP permit applications for dredging Mirror Lake and for modifying the Swan Lake discharge outlet. Subsequently, Baystate Environmental Consultants responded to the Commission's concerns regarding the Mirror Lake project in an 4/8/10 letter to DEP (included in April packet) and another response letter is expected regarding the Swan Lake discharge project. From my perspective, it would be appropriate for the Commission to discuss the UConn responses and as appropriate, update the Commission's communications.

6. Eagleville Brook TMDL Study

A public update meeting has been scheduled for the morning of June 4th. A written notice is expected next week, which will be forwarded to the Conservation Commission. This session is expected to focus on technical fact finding aspects of the study. The focus will then shift to educational, planning and implementation portions of the project. A fall presentation to the PZC/IWA/Conservation Commission is anticipated. More information can be found at the study website: http://clear.uconn.edu/eagleville/Eagleville_TMDL/Home.html

7. **Natchaug River Basin Project**

A new steering committee has been formed to help implement a conservation action plan for the Natchaug Basin. A copy of the draft plan is included in the CC packet. Chairman Kessel, Lon Hultgren, Public Works Director and I have agreed to participate in sub-committee efforts designed to incorporate specific recommendations regarding land use and road and drainage.

8. **Conservation Commission Administrative Issues, etc.**

The Town Council's Committee on Committees is in the process of reviewing the Conservation Commission's charge and associated issues.

Public Information Session

For

United States Department of Agriculture

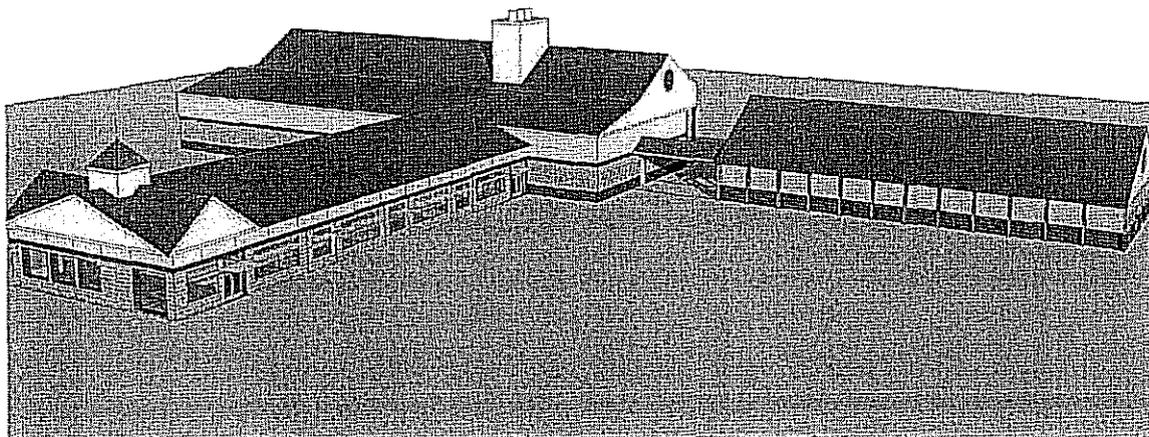
Proposed Animal Health Research Center at UConn's Depot Campus

When: May 18, 2010
7 pm

Where: Bishop Center
One Bishop Circle
Storrs, CT 06269-4056
<http://continuingstudies.uconn.edu/directions/bishopcenter.html>

Questions: Contact Paul Ferri, UConn-Office of Environmental Policy
(860) 486-9295

Please join us to learn about the USDA's proposed plans for an animal health research facility at UConn's Depot Campus. The open-house will feature posters and other informational displays about alternative locations that were evaluated, operational and environmental factors considered, and general information about this facility. Members of the USDA and UConn will be on hand to answer your questions.



Overall Conceptual Rendering

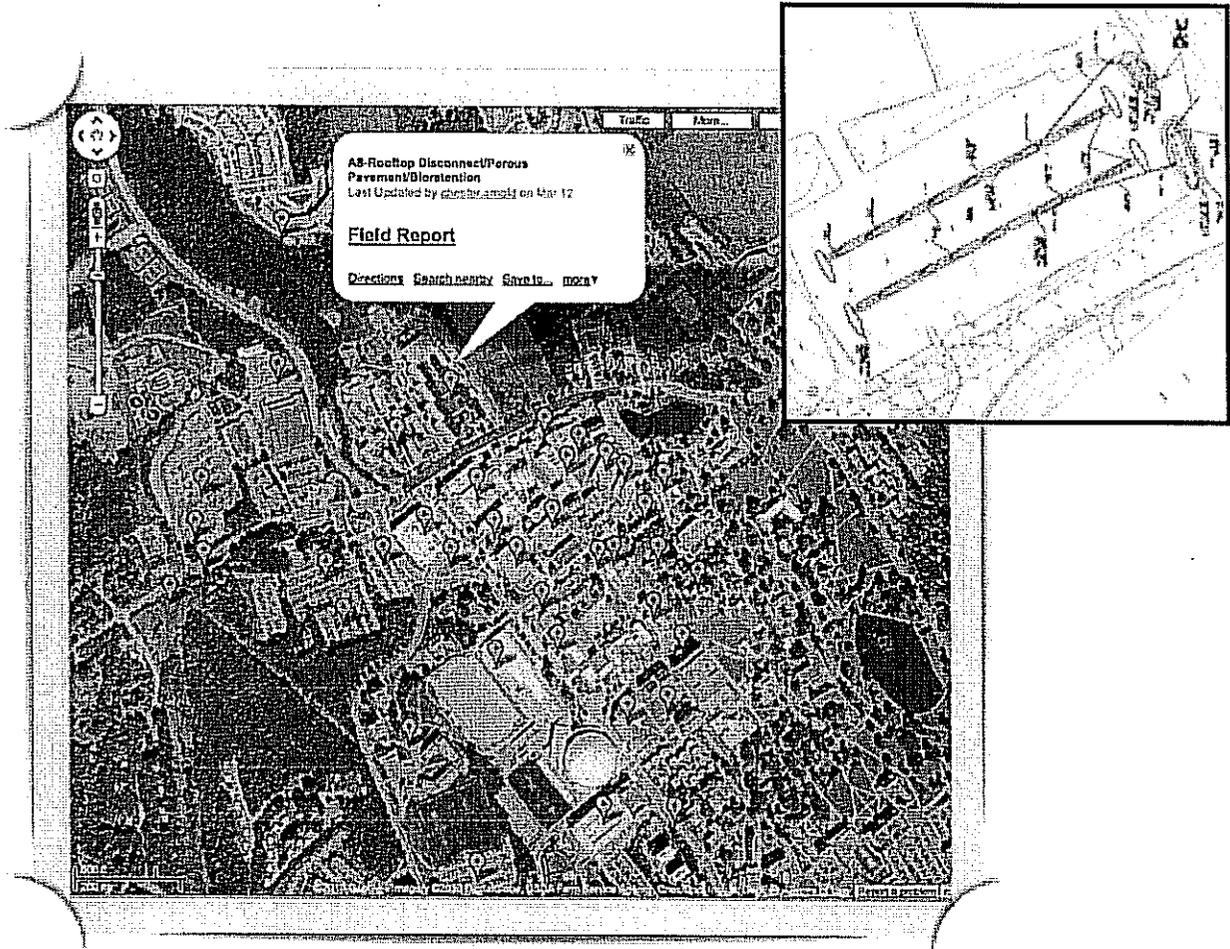
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Update and Discussion on the Impervious Cover TMDL Project

Friday, June 4, 2010

9:30 am to 12:00 noon

Rooms 207/208, W.B. Young Building



With the technical and field analysis portion of the project nearing completion, the Project Team will give a presentation summarizing the project approach, findings to date, and timeline for the future. This will be followed by a Question-and-Answer and Discussion session.

Project partners from the University, CT DEP, and the Town of Manchester will be present to comment and share their views.

The public is welcome!



University of
Connecticut



USDA ANIMAL HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER

A USDA – UConn Partnership



University of
Connecticut

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

BACKGROUND

- Long-standing USDA-UConn research collaboration on the development of vaccines to improve animal health
- USDA space for vaccine research is limited and widely dispersed nationally
- A new research laboratory is needed to serve as a focal point for vaccine research
- Desire to be co-located on a university campus where research collaborations already exist
- Will join 11 existing laboratories across the nation working on animal health – most located on university campuses



BACKGROUND

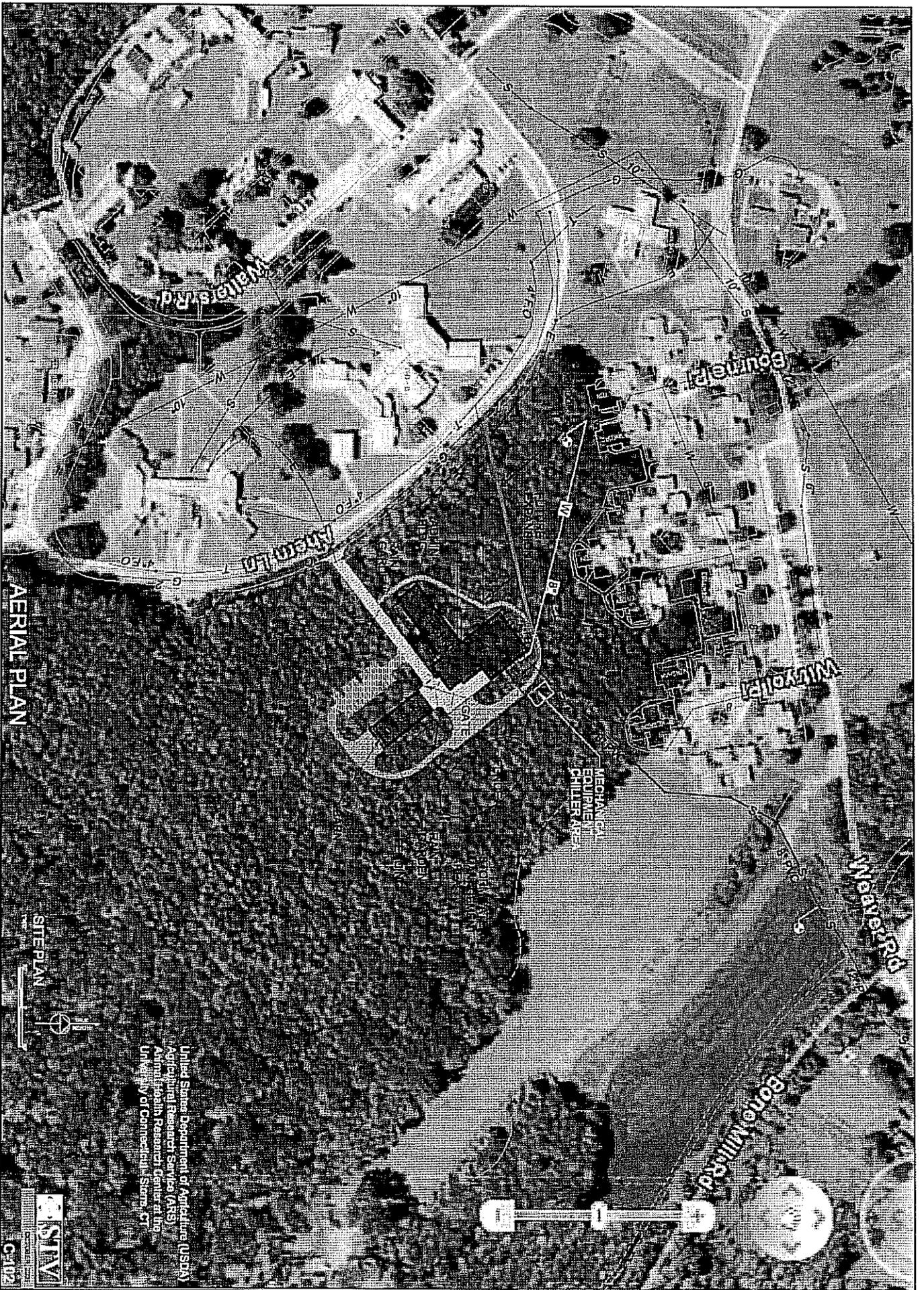
- Discussions about locating the laboratory at UConn began in 2006
- Sufficient federal funds secured to begin planning in 2007
- Planning document and site selection took place in 2009
- USDA facility on leased UConn land
- Construction will take place only if all necessary federal funding secured (\$27 million)



PROCESS

- Series of meetings in 2009 to discuss design, site selection, animal care, waste disposal, and services
- Several sites considered
- Depot campus selected for available space, utilities, bus service, parking and proximity to campus



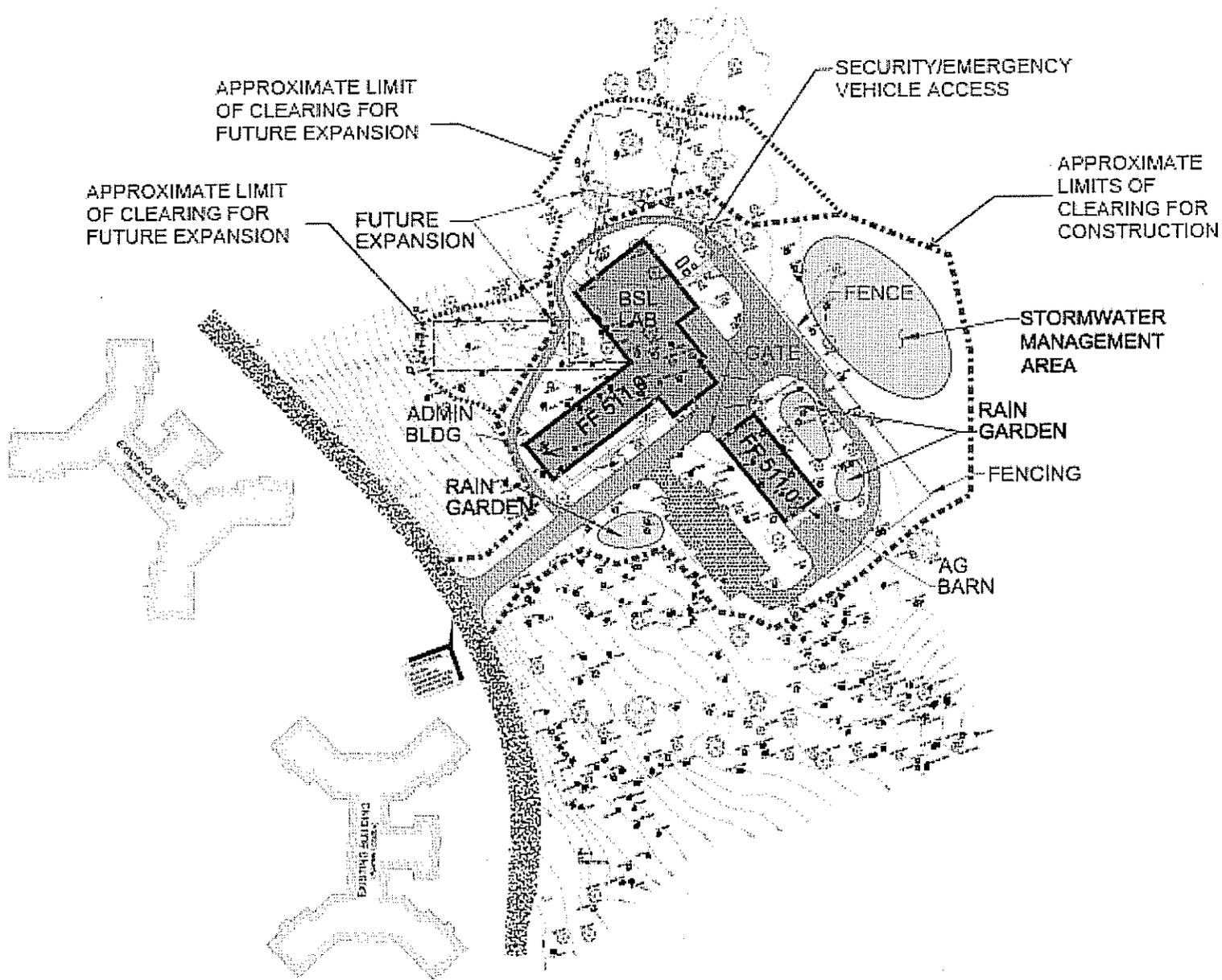


AERIAL PLAN

SITE PLAN

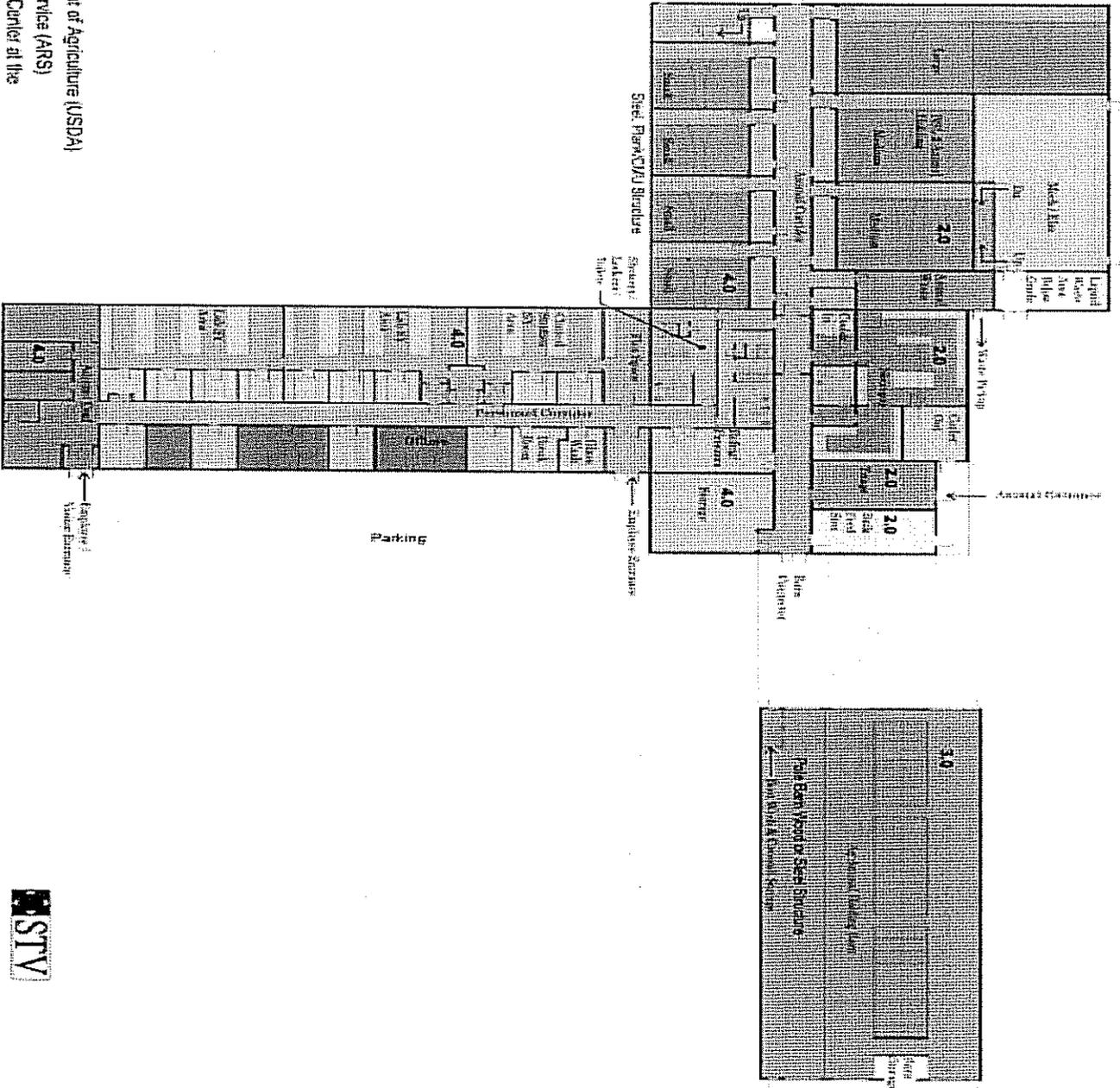
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
 Animal Health Research Center at the
 University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT





United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
 Animal Health Research Center at the
 University Of Connecticut - Storrs, CT

Concept Plan



October 5, 2009

FACILITY

- 35,000 GSF
- Office and laboratory space for 3 senior scientists plus up to 15 support staff and post-docs
- Space for UConn scientists
- Animal study area and holding barn for up to 84 farm animals
- No external housing of animals



BIOLOGICAL SAFETY

- Focus is on how healthy animals react to experimental vaccines
- All research is limited to low level biological safety (BSL2)
- No pathogenic organisms above BSL2 allowed at the site
- No diseased animals will be brought to the site
- Research must comply with UConn approval process for biological safety and animal care



BIOLOGICAL SAFETY (BSL2)

- Limited to agents of moderate risk and commonly found
- Controlled access and separation from public spaces
- No air recirculation to non-lab areas
- Appropriate decontamination of any infectious materials
- Training requirements



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- UConn will provide feed and remove animal waste similar to other UConn facilities
- Animal waste will be used as fertilizer, composted, or disposed of off site based on need and environmental regulations
- Any contaminated waste will be treated prior to disposal



BENEFITS TO UCONN

- Additional research capacity funded through the federal government
- Enhances an existing research relationship with USDA
- Creating a regional focus in animal health that can attract additional high tech jobs
- Potential to attract additional research funding in animal health
- Access to animal research space for UConn faculty



University of
Connecticut

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

BENEFITS TO USDA

- Address space limitations in existing facilities
- Create a national focus for animal vaccine research
- Take advantage of UConn expertise in animal health
- Enhance existing research collaboration with Center of Excellence for Vaccine Research



QUESTIONS?



University of
Connecticut

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Natchaug Basin Conservation Action Planning

Ashford-Chaplin-Eastford-Mansfield-Union-Willimantic-Windham-Woodstock (Connecticut)



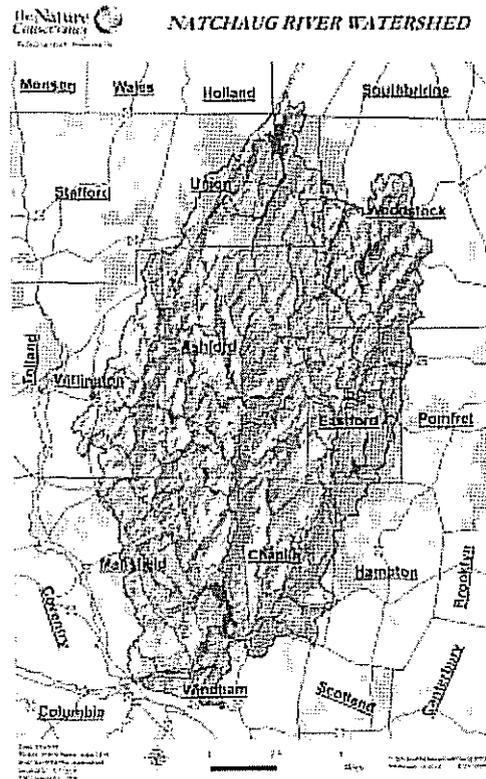
The Natchaug River is recognized by federal, state, local and private agencies as a benchmark stream for water quality and its basin contains a rich diversity of aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals. The three mainstem rivers of the Natchaug Basin - the Fenton, Mount Hope, and Natchaug Rivers make up the 114,000-acre Natchaug Basin. The basin supports the largest public surface drinking water supply watershed in Connecticut, supplying 22,000 consumers in Willimantic and Mansfield, the majority of the University of Connecticut water system which supports approximately 25,000 students, faculty and staff and additional consumers in the Storrs area. Approximately 18,000 residents of the basin are dependent on private wells. The Natchaug Basin is largely rural, more than 75% forested with very high water quality valued for drinking water, wildlife habitat, recreation, history and beauty.

Much of the land within the watershed is held by the State of Connecticut, US Army Corps of Engineers flood control facility, private land trusts and large private land owners. The natural ecological condition and the services provided to communities within the Basin depend on its continued high quality. Although the watershed is located in the "Last Green Valley" between Washington and Boston there is significant urban and suburban development pressure from these expanding cities threatening the ecological condition of these high quality streams.

To implement on-the-ground conservation a series of three stakeholder meetings in the Natchaug Basin called "Conservation Action Planning for the Natchaug Basin" were conducted. Meetings addressed the protection of the ecological systems used by plants, animals and people and generated regional strategies and measures for protection of aquatic resources in the Natchaug Basin.

The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Action Planning (CAP) process includes the following steps:

1. Identify conservation targets and assess their condition or ecological viability.
2. Identify and rank the primary threats affecting the overall condition of the watershed systems
3. Define strategies to specifically address the threats and restoration needs of the conservation targets.
4. Create a document which assigns measurable actions and dates specific to each strategy, to determine if our strategies are working and if not, why.



Natchaug Basin Conservation Action Planning

Ashford, Chaplin, Easton, Mansfield, Union, Wallington, Windham, Woodstock (Connecticut)



Ecological Targets of the Natchaug Basin:

1. Main Stem Rivers
2. Headwater Streams and Wetland Complexes
3. Cold Water Fish and Mussels
4. Lakes and Ponds
5. Aquifers and Groundwater Recharge
6. Forests
7. Grasslands

Critical Threats:

1. Incompatible Residential or Commercial Development
2. Incompatible Road Construction and Maintenance
3. Incompatible (excessive or inappropriately timed) Groundwater Withdrawal
4. Incompatible Dams and Dam Maintenance

Strategies and Action Items:

- 1) Identify and convene a steering committee to engage stakeholders, elicit endorsement for and adopt the Natchaug Basin Conservation Action Plan.
 - a) Create regional or inter-municipal compact to be signed by all municipalities and appropriate partners
- 2) Conduct outreach and education to ensure land use decision makers understand the importance of the Natchaug Basin.
 - a) Create outreach sub-committee to identify outreach and education opportunities
 - b) Create Natchaug Basin "brand"
- 3) Implement a watershed wide mechanism for balancing conservation and economic growth in ecologically suitable segments of the basin.
 - a) Identify sub-committee
 - b) Inventory and identify opportunities for municipal zoning code improvements for the protection of conservation targets.
 - c) Identify critical conservation lands for protection of ecological targets
 - d) Promote municipal land use regulations that protect ecological targets
- 4) Ensure adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the protection and conservation of ecological targets.
 - a) Identify sub-committee
 - b) Develop a dashboard manual for town public works staff and CONNDOT outlining environmentally friendly road maintenance practices
 - c) Inventory storm water infrastructure and needs in each town - beginning with one pilot town (to be identified)

Mansfield Open Space Preservation Committee
DRAFT Minutes for April 20, 2010

1. Chairman Jim Morrow called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM
2. Members present
Vicky Wetherell, Jim Morrow, Quentin Kessel, Ken Feathers and Steve Lowrey
3. Lowrey/Feathers: Motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2010, motion carried unanimously.
4. Public Comment: No public present.
5. Old Business:
Discussion of the Finance Board meeting, which some members attended to discuss the Open Space bonding issue
6. New Business:
Feathers/Wetherell: Motion to go into Executive Session, motion carried at 8:07 PM
Wetherell/Feathers: Motion to come out of Executive Session, motion carried at 8:20 PM

Wetherell/Lowrey: Motion to endorse recommendations made during executive session.
Motion carried unanimously
7. Reports :
 - Wetherell had been contacted by the Sustainability Committee and asked to provide them with some brochures. She found some old, but still relevant brochures regarding wetlands and agricultural and open space land.
 - Wetherell discussed Paula Stahl's power Point presentation that would be shown to the Council. It contained information regarding cost of community services for various land-use categories.
 -
8. No Communications from other committees
10. Lowrey/Feathers: Motion to adjourn, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted
Stephen Lowrey

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MINUTES

MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting, Monday, April 19, 2010

Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, B. Pociask (7:02), B. Ryan
Members absent: J. Goodwin, P. Plante
Alternates present: F. Loxsom, K. Rawn, V. Stearns (7:02)
Staff Present: Gregory Padick (Director of Planning)

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and appointed alternates Loxsom and Stearns to act in the absence of Goodwin and Plante.

Minutes:

~~4-5-10-~~ Hall MOVED, Ryan seconded, to approve the 4/5/10 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Stearns and Loxsom who disqualified themselves.

~~4-14-10-~~ Hall MOVED, Beal seconded, to approve the 4/14/10 field trip minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with Beal, Favretti, Hall and Holt in favor and all others disqualified.

Zoning Agent's Report:

The Zoning Agent's Monthly Enforcement Report was noted. Hirsch stated that he has issued Hall a Notice of Assessment, adding that the next step is to file on his deed in the Land Records the amount owed in fines, and then begin working with the Town Attorney to file a lawsuit.

Hirsch noted that he and the Chairman signed off on a modification at Southeast Park for a scoreboard at the field, and one at Hunting Lodge Apartments for a basketball and volleyball court.

New Business:

4. Modification Request -Proposed Office, Motor Vehicle Driving School, 699 Storrs Rd. File #554-3

Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, that the PZC approve the 4/12/10 Request for Modifications by Maximo Garcia for driver's education classroom instruction, as submitted and described by the applicant with the condition that class size is limited to a maximum of ten students and that if the Zoning Agent determines that the existing parking is insufficient for the combined uses of the site, class size shall be reduced or additional parking spaces shall be proposed and reviewed and approved by the PZC. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Request for Utility Work within Conservation Easement Area, Adeline Place, File #1187

Hirsch's memo was discussed. Concern was expressed about setting a precedent if approval were granted. Beal MOVED, Pociask seconded, that the PZC approve the 4/14/10 request of Pine Grove Estates, LLC to perform the described work within a conservation easement area as shown on the submitted plan and that the disturbed area be restored with a vegetative ground cover satisfactory to the Zoning Agent. Hall MOVED, Holt seconded to table the motion. MOTION FAILED with Hall, Holt and Stearns in favor of tabling, and all others opposed. After discussion, members determined that the change would not create any significant impact. MOTION on the floor moved by Beal, seconded by Pociask, PASSED with all in favor except Hall who was opposed. Favretti then asked the Director of Planning to investigate the possibility of charging fines when regulations are violated without modification approval.

Public Hearing:

Special Permit Application, Permanent Agricultural Retail Sales, 483 Browns Road, B. Kielbania o/a, File #1292

Chairman Favretti opened the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m. Members present were Favretti, Beal, Hall, Holt, Lewis, Pociask, Ryan and alternates Loxsom, Rawn and Stearns. Favretti appointed Loxsom and Stearns to act. Gregory Padick, Director of Planning read the legal notice as it appeared in the Chronicle on 4/6/10 and 4/14/10 and noted the following communications distributed to all members of the Commission: a 4/15/10 report from G.

Padick, Director of Planning; a 4/15/10 report from G. Meitzler, Assistant Town Engineer; a 4/5/10 report from J. Jackman, Fire Marshall; and a 4/6/10 report from the Agriculture Committee.

The applicant's representative, Wes Wentworth, P.E., Soil Scientist, Wentworth Civil Engineers, LLC, distributed revised plans dated 4/19/10. Wentworth reviewed the changes to the plans based on staff comments, and discussed the reduction in driveway widths with a one-way traffic flow and elimination of the second easterly driveway exit. Wentworth noted that the farm stand will be open three days a week, from April to December (based on demand). There is a stone wall under construction along the western front boundary of the property, to then be supplemented by evergreen trees and shrubs, to act as a landscape buffer for the abutting neighbor to the west.

Members raised questions regarding the traffic, road conditions, sight lines, winter parking, handicapped signage and accessibility, parking layout, hours of operation, lighting and products that are to be sold.

Chairman Favretti opened the discussion for members of the public.

Raluca Mocanu, 253 Maple Road, asked the applicant to explain how this proposal will be sustainable, environmentally safe and what will be grown on site. She also referenced comments from Bill Palmer of the Agriculture Committee and his concern that the agricultural deed covenant be upheld. (To clarify this point, Wentworth submitted a 2-19-10 email correspondence from J. Dippel, Director Farmland Preservation Program, Connecticut Department of Agriculture.)

Gus Loukas, Browns Road, the abutter to the west, expressed concern for the value of his property, traffic, parking and the safety of his children noting the proximity of his property to the barn and driveway entrance. He stated that when the former owner opened his corn maze to the public, there were cars parked along the road, in his driveway and on his lawn. Often cars would turn around in his driveway, making it unsafe for his children to play there.

Edward Weiser, member of the Agriculture Committee, feels that the type and quantity of product that can be brought in from off-site should be clearly defined. He wanted to know which of Kielbania's fields will be actively cultivated this year and in the future.

There were no further comments or questions from the Commission or the public. Holt MOVED, Hall seconded, to continue the public hearing until 5/3/10. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Old Business:

1. **Draft Revisions to the Zoning Regulations Definitions of Family and Boarding House; Political Signs**
Item tabled, pending a public hearing scheduled for 5/3/10.
2. **Draft Revisions to the Zoning Map, Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, dated 4/14/10, regarding:**
 - a. Rezoning of Industrial Park Zone and Associated Regulation Revisions
 - b. Aquifer and Public Water Supply Protection Regulations
 - c. Invasive Plant Species Regulations

Padick referenced his 4/15/10 memo and reviewed in detail the associated 4/14/10 draft revisions. Holt MOVED, Hall seconded, that a public hearing be scheduled for June 7, 2010 to hear comments on the attached 4/14/10 draft revisions to the Zoning Map and Zoning and Subdivision Regulations. The draft regulations shall be specifically referred to the Town Attorney, WINCOG Regional Planning Commission, the adjacent municipalities, Town Council, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Open Space Preservation Committee, Agriculture Committee and Design Review Panel.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Business:

1. **8-24 Referral, 2010-11 Capital Improvement Budget**
Ryan MOVED, Holt seconded, that the PZC approve, subject to the condition below, the proposed 2010-11 Capital Improvement Program.

Several items are land-use-regulated and may require PZC and/or IWA approvals before implementation. The PZC respectfully requests that the departments involved with land-use projects coordinate plans with the Director of Planning and Inland Wetlands Agent and that the Commission/Agency be given adequate time to thoroughly review and act upon final plans for all projects that require PZC or IWA approval.

The PZC also recommends that the Town Council include in the 2010-11 Capital Improvement Budget funding for open space acquisition and management. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. **Request to Extend Special Permit Approval, Gibbs Oil Company, 9 Stafford Rd, PZC File #404-3**
Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, that the Planning and Zoning Commission approve a third extension of the period of time to begin construction of the Gibbs Expansion Project on property located at 9 Stafford Road. The new date to begin construction is October 1, 2011 unless an additional extension is requested and approved. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. **Request to Extend Special Permit Approval, St. Paul's Collegiate Church, 1768 Storrs Rd, File #1275**
Holt MOVED, Hall seconded, that the Planning and Zoning Commission approve an extension of the period of time to begin construction of the expansion at St. Paul's Collegiate Church on property located at 1768 Storrs Road. The new date to begin construction is May 7, 2011 unless an additional extension is requested and approved. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Reports of Officers and Committees:

None noted.

Communications and Bills:

Noted.

Adjournment:

Chairman Favretti declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Holt, Secretary

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DRAFT MINUTES

MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION Regular Meeting, Monday, May 3, 2010 Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, J. Goodwin (7:48 p.m.), R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan
Alternates present: F. Loxsom, K. Rawn
Alternates absent: V. Stearns
Staff Present: Gregory Padick (Director of Planning)

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and appointed Rawn to act until Goodwin arrived.

Minutes:

4/19/10-Hall MOVED, Ryan seconded, to approve the 4/19/10 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Plante who disqualified himself.

Public Hearing:

Draft Revisions to the Zoning Regulations Definitions of Family and Boarding House; Political Signs, PZC File 907-32

Chairman Favretti opened the public hearing at 7:36 p.m. Members present were R. Favretti, M. Beal, J. Goodwin (7:48 p.m.), R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan and alternates F. Loxsom, K. Rawn. Alternate Rawn was appointed to act until Goodwin's arrival. G. Padick, Director of Planning, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the Chronicle on 4/20/10 and 4/28/10 and noted the following communications received and distributed to all members of the Commission: a 5/3/10 memo from G. Padick, Director of Planning; a 4/29/10 memo from D. Edens of 24 Birchwood Heights Road; a 5/3/10 email from C. Pellegrine; and a 5/3/10 memo from D. O'Brien, Mansfield Town Attorney. In addition to those communications, Padick noted the draft revisions had also been referred to appropriate staff, WINCOG Regional Planning Agency, Mansfield's Public Notice Registry and abutting towns.

Padick summarized each proposal and discussed the reasoning behind the changes and the intended results if approved.

Favretti noted no comments from the PZC and opened the floor for public comment regarding the definition of family and boarding house.

Jake Friedman requested the PZC take into consideration the impact on housing if the number of persons per household is limited.

Betty Wassmundt questioned if the non-conforming status would go with the land or the owner; if the PZC considered a situation in which the majority of the homes in a neighborhood are non-conforming with four un-related persons and a new house is used as a rental with 3 un-related people, will the new house be worth less because it is limited to three un-related; if thought had been given to encouraging neighborhood associations; and if the State of Connecticut defined family. Padick answered that the non-conforming status goes with the land, and Connecticut does not define family.

David Freudman felt this was a "broad brush approach" and thought it was not the right of the Town to define family; he felt that as houses age it may be more beneficial to convert them to rental properties and this would limit that use; consideration should be given to the number who can live in smaller versus larger homes; he was troubled by Town employees going around observing how many cars are in driveways of student rentals. It appears that the Town is "targeting" students.

Mike Sikoski agreed with the previous speakers and noted that it isn't troublesome having students as neighbors, it's having troublesome students as neighbors that is the problem. He felt that enforcement was an

issue and noted that if the current regulations were hard to enforce now, this new regulation won't make it any easier.

Joan Hall, who owns and rents properties in Mansfield, felt that the proposed changes in some ways are more generous because the definition of family is expanded. She had no opposition to the definition change from four to three un-related persons.

Favretti noted there were no more comments regarding the definition of family and boarding house, and he opened the floor for public comment regarding political signs.

Cynara Stites thanked the PZC for the proposed change and noted that as the President of the Northeast Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union she found the revised regulations to be acceptable.

David Morse agreed with Stites comments.

Noting no further comments or questions from the Commission or public, Plante MOVED, Holt seconded, to continue the Public Hearing until June 7th. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Hearing:

Special Permit Application, Permanent Agricultural Retail Sales, 483 Browns Road, o/a B. Kielbania, File #1292

Chairman Favretti opened the continued Public Hearing at 8:22 p.m. Members present were R. Favretti, M. Beal, J. Goodwin, R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan and alternates F. Loxsom, K. Rawn. Padick noted the following communications received and distributed since the 4/19/10 Public Hearing: a 4/28/10 memo from G. Meitzler, Assistant Town Engineer; a 4/29/10 memo from G. Padick, Director of Planning; and a 4/29/10 memo from G. Havens, E.H.H.D.

The applicant's representative, Wes Wentworth, P.E., Soil Scientist, Wentworth Civil Engineers, LLC, presented a 4/19/10 letter from J. Dipple, Director of the Farmland Preservation Program from the CT Department of Agriculture which outlined the proposal and stated that the farm stand expansion, green houses, and various barn expansions are acceptable uses.

Pociask questioned if any changes will be made for a handicap pathway, noting a 10% grade, and asked about additional lighting around the barn. Wentworth noted that the grade can be lessened when creating the pathway which will be built with D.O.T. standard stone-dust. At this time no additional lighting has been proposed.

Holt questioned if the applicant would be willing to eliminate the corn maze and agree to no outdoor amplification of music.

Attorney April Teveris, representing the applicant, indicated that Mr. Kielbania would be willing to withdraw the portion of his application that includes the corn maze at the site, but would like to reserve the right to come back to the Commission in the future should he want to revisit that part of the project.

Loxsom expressed concern about the traffic entering and leaving the site and if the precautionary signs would be enough to help the safety of travelers in that area. He asked Padick if speed humps near the area would be helpful. Padick responded that the Traffic Authority would not consider speed humps on a Collector Road such as Browns Road.

Favretti noted no comments from the PZC and no comments from the public.

Attorney April Teveris summarized the proposal stating that Mr. Kielbania is planning to bring a quality product to our community. She also noted that the applicant has tried to contact and work out concerns with the Loukas family with no resolution at this time.

Gus Loukas, the abutting property-owner, expressed that he was not opposed to the proposal, but was just

concerned for the proximity of the activity to his home where his children's safety may be compromised by the extra vehicular traffic and visitors to the site.

Beal MOVED, Plante seconded, to close the public hearing at 8:47 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Old Business:

1. **Draft Revisions to the Zoning Map, Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, PZC File 907-33**
 - a. Rezoning of Industrial Park Zone and Associated Regulation Revisions
 - b. Aquifer and Public Water Supply Protection Regulations
 - c. Invasive Plant Species RegulationsTabled-Public Hearing Scheduled for 6/7/10.

New Business:

1. **Special Permit Modification Request Mansfield Hollow Hydro Project, 114 Mansfield Hollow Rd, File #1243**

Mr. Shifrin agreed to have the testimony presented at the IWA Public Hearing entered into the record of the PZC. Goodwin disqualified herself, and Chairman Favretti appointed Rawn to act.

Pociask MOVED, Ryan seconded, that the PZC Chairman and Zoning Agent be authorized to approve the modification request of S. and M. Shifrin for revisions to the planned Mansfield Hollow Hydro Facility at 114 Mansfield Hollow Road, as depicted on a 4/26/10 site plan as prepared by Datum Engineering and Surveying, LLC and 4/20/10 Power House rendering, and as described in other application submissions, subject to the following conditions:

1. All conditions cited in the Planning and Zoning Commission's April 6, 2006 approval shall remain in effect.
2. All necessary permit modifications from other agencies having jurisdiction over this project shall be obtained prior to construction.
3. No Zoning Permit shall be issued until it is confirmed that rear line setback requirements have been complied with. Final plans shall incorporate any appropriate changes in the depicted rear line setback.

MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Goodwin who was disqualified.

Zoning Agent's Report:

The Zoning Agent's Monthly Enforcement Report was noted. Hirsch noted that Ed Hall is appealing the citations issued. There will be a hearing this Wednesday and Hall plans to make a plea as to why he isn't in violation. Hirsch will update the PZC at the next meeting on the hearing officer's decision.

Hirsch also noted a modification request for the interior use of a section of an existing building, Land of Local Treasures at 1029 Storrs Road. The applicant, Ms. Amanda Stinson, and the building owner, Mrs. Michelle Landon, were both present. The area would be used as a tattoo parlor and would be by appointment only with Stinson as the only employee, noting that no more than 2 cars at a time would be parked there. Favretti questioned if she planned on having a sign, and Stinson indicated it would be one small sign that would fit under the existing sign. She indicated that the hours of operation would not extend past the hours of the Land of Local Treasures.

Plante MOVED, Hall seconded, that the PZC authorize the PZC Chairman and the Zoning Agent to approve the 4/20/10 Request for Modifications of Amanda Stinson for a tattoo studio at 1029 Storrs Road, as submitted and described by the applicant. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Business Continued:

2. **Request for Bond Release- Pine Grove Estates, File #1187-2**

Holt MOVED, Pociask seconded, that the PZC authorizes the Director of Planning to take appropriate actions to release a \$20,000 cash bond plus interest that has been held to ensure that all Subdivision

improvements in the Pine Grove Subdivision remain in an acceptable condition. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Request for Shed within Development Area Envelope, 37 Adeline Place, File #1187-2**

Holt MOVED, Plante seconded, that the PZC authorize the placement of a 10 by 16-foot storage shed to be located outside of the Building Area Envelope at 37 Adeline Place, as submitted by Sean Maynard and depicted on a plan dated 4/28/10, as provided for under Article VIII, section B.1.d of the Mansfield Zoning Regulations. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Reports of Officers and Committees:

Chairman Favretti noted the next Regulatory Review Committee meeting will be on 5/11/10 at 2pm in Conference Room C.

Communications and Bills:

Noted.

Adjournment:

Chairman Favretti declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Holt, Secretary

DRAFT MINUTES
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 3, 2010
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, B. Pociask (7:02 p.m.),
P. Plante, B. Ryan
Members absent: J. Goodwin
Alternates present: F. Loxsom (7:05 p.m.), K. Rawn
Alternates absent: V. Stearns
Staff present: G. Meitzler (Wetlands Agent)

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and appointed alternate Rawn to act in Goodwin's absence.

Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, to add to the agenda a communication from Algonquin Gas Company.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes:

4-5-10 – Hall MOVED, Beal seconded, to approve the 4-5-10 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4-14-10 Field Trip-Holt MOVED, Hall seconded, to approve the 4-14-10 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with Beal, Favretti, Holt and Hall in favor and all others disqualified.

Communications:

The 4-21-10 draft Conservation Commission minutes and the 4-27-10 Wetlands Agent's Monthly Business report were noted.

Old Business:

W1450 - Town of Mansfield - Healey easement path in buffer

Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, to grant an Inland Wetlands License under the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to the Town of Mansfield (File W1450) for construction of a 12-foot wide by 250-foot long gravel access-way, on property owned by Michael and Mary Healey, located at the rear of 476 Storrs Road, as shown on a map dated 4-15-09 and as described in other application submissions.

This action is based on a finding of no anticipated significant impact on the wetlands, and is conditioned upon the following provisions being met:

1. Erosion and sedimentation controls (as shown on the plans) shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until May 3, 2015), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

W1451 - Town of Mansfield - IWA Regulation revision per new statute

Item is tabled until the June 7, 2010 Public Hearing.

New Business:

W1452 - Shifrin - Request for Modification: Mansfield Hollow Hydro Project

Sam Shifrin reviewed the modification request of an existing approval. The proposed changes will be for the relocation of the power house and a reduction of its size. Shifrin reviewed the permitting procedure and stated

that all permits from the federal government, state and town have been approved. He noted that the previously-placed property line on the plans was incorrect and it now is located accurately in the middle of the river. Based on this, the power house relocation will meet the setback requirements. The power house will have five turbines which will produce enough power to run the mill and an additional 180 homes. The mill will be used for research and development including the development of software for the project. Occasionally for the turbines will be changed to try different styles. Shifrin noted that there are 80,000 existing dams in the United States, and 4,000 of them in New England, and all have the potential to be used for a hydro electric project similar to his, therefore he hopes to broaden this use to other communities.

After a brief question period, Hall MOVED, Holt seconded, to approve modifications to an Inland Wetlands License pursuant to the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield granted to Sam & Michelle Shifrin (file no. W1452), for modifications to approval of permit W1339 previously issued to Sam & Michelle Shifrin installation of Hydro-Power facilities at the Kirby Mill within regulated areas located at 114 Mansfield Hollow Road. The modifications include relocation of the structure containing the turbines, a portion of the inlet conduit, and modification to the outlet sluiceway, as shown on a revised site plan dated 4/26/2010, and in other application submissions.

This action is based on a finding of no anticipated significant impact on the wetlands, and is conditioned upon the following provisions being met:

1. The conditions of the previous approval are to remain in effect except for the following modifications.
2. Erosion and sedimentation controls shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized.
3. A double row of silt fencing is to be placed along the downhill side of the construction area.

This approval is valid until April 3, 2011, at which time a renewal of the modified permit is required if work has not been completed. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

W1453 - Gottmann - Gurleyville R - deck in 150' area

Hall MOVED, Holt seconded, to receive the application submitted by Karen and Clifford Gottmann (IWA file #1453) under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield for the construction of a deck at 580 Gurleyville Road on property owned by the applicants as shown on a map dated July 22, 1999 revised to April 26, 2010 and as described in other application submissions and to refer the application to the staff and Conservation Commission for review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Reports of Officers and Committees:

None noted.

Other Communications and Bills:

Meitzler summarized a communication from Algonquin Gas regarding a notification that they will need to repair the protective coating on some pipe near Woodland Road. It was agreed by consensus that there would be no significant impact and no further request for information was deemed necessary.

Adjournment:

Favretti declared the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Holt, Secretary

Memorandum:

April 27, 2010

To: Inland Wetland Agency
From: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetland Agent
Re: Monthly Business

W1419 - Chernushek - hearing on Order

3.10.09: The hearing on the Order remains open and should continue until the permit application under consideration is acted upon.

(The Order was dropped on approval of the application required in the Order.)

4.30.09: Former rye grass seeding is beginning to show green. I spoke with Mr. Chernushek this afternoon who indicated health problems that delayed his starting but indicated he will be working this weekend. I will update on this Monday evening.

5.26.09: A light cover of grass growth has come in. Mr. Chernushek indicates health problems and two related deaths have delayed his start of work since the permit approval was granted. It appears that some light work has started. He has further indicated that he will start a vacation on June 22, 2009 to finish the work.

6.13.09: Work is underway.

6.21.09: Bulldozer work has been completed - finish work remains. The additional silt fencing has been placed along the northerly wetlands crossing, and the additional pipe under the southerly crossing has been installed. Remaining work includes finish grading along edges, spreading stockpiled topsoil, and establishing grass growth.

7.01.09: I spoke with Mr. Chernushek who indicated he expects work to be completed by September 1, 2009. (Site photo attached).

9.03.09: Mr. Chernushek has been working on levelling and grading. The formerly seeded areas have become fairly thick growth surrounding the central wet areas. He has further indicated that with the combination of weather and the slower moving of earth with the payloader compared to the earlier rented bulldozer has led him to contact contractors for earth moving estimates which have not yet been received. The site is not yet finished but has remained quite stable.

9.12.09: I met with Mr. Chernushek today and discussed again what his plans are for stabilizing this work site.

10.01.09: Mr. Chernushek indicated he has not heard back from the contractor he had spoken with about removing material, and is in progress of contacting others. In discussion is removal of material from the site either within the 100 cubic yard limit or obtaining a permit for such removal.

10.28.09: Mr. Chernushek has indicated he has made arrangements with DeSiato Sand & Gravel to remove 750 cubic yards of material. Staff is in the process of clarifying permit requirements.

W1445 - Chernushek - application for gravel removal from site

11.30.09: Packet of information representing submissions by Mr. Chernushek, Mr. DeSiato and myself is in this agenda packet as Mr. Chernushek's request for modification.

12.29.09: Preparation of required information for PZC special permit application is in progress. Tabling any action until the February 1, 2010 meeting is recommended.

1.12.10: 65 day extension of time received.

- 2.18.10: No new information has been received.
- 2.25.10: This application has been withdrawn.

Mansfield Auto Parts - Route 32

- 12.08.08: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 1.16.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 2.24.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 3.06.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 4.14.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 5.11.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 6.10.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 7.16.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 8.12.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 9.14.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 10.27.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 11.30.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 12.28.09: There are two cars that need to be moved. Mr. Bednarczyk indicates their payloader is down for repairs and the cars will be moved as soon as it is repaired.
- 1.27.10: No change - the payloader is apart with parts on order to complete repairs. It is of 1986 vintage and finding parts is a major proposition.
- 2.18.10: Same - they are in the process of rebuilding the engine on the payloader.
- 3.30.10: Same - Mr. Bednarczyk indicates a continuing problem finding engine parts.
- 4.13.10: Owner indicates the payloader is operating again.
- 4.15.10: Owner indicates he will have the cars moved this week.
- 4.23.10: No vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.



Willimantic River Review

Spring 2010

Water Trail Celebration

As part of The Last Green Valley's "Source to Sea" project in 2009, three Water Trails were developed along the Quinebaug River. This year TLGV is expanding its effort to other rivers in northeast Connecticut, and the Willimantic River Alliance is participating by formally designating the **Willimantic River Water Trail** from Stafford to Windham.

Although paddlers have enjoyed the river for many years, this project will improve access to the river and provide better information about water features. With help from John Monroe of the National Park Service, a steering committee has inventoried current and potential launch sites and is drafting an updated Paddler's Guide. This guide will be added to our website's Paddling page during the summer.

Your suggestions for the trail are welcome! Join us at our **Water Trail Open House** on April 28 to share ideas and preview the new Paddlers Guide. Or come to River Park in Mansfield on **National Trails Day** (June 5) for an official ribbon cutting, celebration and family paddle along the river. Check the Calendar inside for details.

River Study Results

When the University of Connecticut's wells draw water from the aquifer adjacent to and under the river, they reduce the river's flow next to the wells and, to a lesser extent, downstream for two miles to Eagleville Lake. The **Willimantic River Study** was proposed to find out how much flow is needed to sustain aquatic life in the river and how withdrawals by the UConn wells could affect that necessary amount of flow.

In 2008, UConn contracted with Milone & MacBroom to perform this study, which is nearing completion. M & M found that, for most of the year, there is enough water for both wells and stream flow at UConn's current level of water usage. Problems have occurred during low flows in summer and early fall when warm weather and returning students create high water demands. The February, 2010 draft study recommends low-stream-flow thresholds that could trigger water

conservation actions at UConn and the surrounding Storrs area. If the new Merrow in-stream USGS gauge upstream of the wells drops to 15 cfs (cubic feet per second passing by the gauge), then water conservation measures should begin. If the gauge drops as low as 8 cfs then water withdrawals should be reduced or an additional water source should be used. (In the Fall 2007 drought, stream flow by the wells was as low as 8 cfs.)

The study recommends potential solutions to address the seasonal low-flow/high-demand period. 1) Reduce UConn's need for well water by creating a reclaimed water facility (recycled water system) to supply the 500,000 gallons per day needed by the central utility/cogeneration plant on warm days. 2) Create additional water sources, such as drilling new wells or piping water from the Shenipsit Reservoir in Tolland. 3) During low flows, supplement the river's flow by releasing additional water from impoundments (reservoirs) upstream in Stafford and Ellington. Any of these measures would help preserve an adequate flow for aquatic life in the river.

The Alliance was represented on the study's Technical Advisory Group by Meg Reich. Recently, WRA submitted a letter of support for the study's recommendations. This study (and the Fenton River Study) will provide a scientific basis for UConn's upcoming update of its Water Supply Plan and will help protect the natural features and wildlife in both rivers.

Riverwatch

*Ct. DEP has proposed the first **Connecticut Stream Flow Standards and Regulations**. During the public comment period, WRA submitted a letter supporting the proposal as an important tool to maintain the health of the state's rivers. We also submitted suggestions for changes that could improve the effectiveness of the proposed regulations.

We raised an **important question**: Would those who have a current diversion permit (such as Tolland's well next to the Willimantic River) be required to participate in and comply with a "collective impact assessment" for the whole river? The proposal exempts current permit holders from the proposed regulations, but to effectively protect a river, the regulations should not address each diversion or dam in isolation. WRA recommended that a collective impact assessment must include ALL diversions. There was loud opposition to the proposed standards and regulations from vested interests, such as industries and water companies that divert water from the state's rivers. DEP will consider all of the comments and update the proposal before it goes to the state legislature for consideration.

*The Willimantic River Alliance is represented on the new **Mansfield Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee**, which is researching improvements to the commercial area at the junction of Rts. 195 and 44 in Storrs. Failing septic systems and contaminated wells have caused DEP to advise sewer upgrades for the area. This new group is also looking into the need for a public drinking water supply. Most of the land is in the river's watershed, and this project could impact Cedar Swamp Brook (a tributary to Eagleville Lake). To ensure protection of these waterways, the Alliance is advocating for an environmentally responsible plan.

***Time to get involved!** The Alliance is looking for additional representatives for its board of directors, especially from the lower river area. We meet eight times a year to discuss river-related issues and plan the Alliance's advocacy actions, workshops and recreational events. We welcome your input whether or not you wish to join the board. Our meetings are at the Tolland Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month. You can always contact us at info@willimanticriver.org.

The Greenway Grows

STAFFORD The Norcross Wildlife Foundation has purchased 244 acres on the hillside above Staffordville Lake. This protects the immediate watershed of Furnace Brook, which joins Middle River in Stafford Springs to form the Willimantic River headwaters. NWF has preserved 8000 acres in Connecticut and Massachusetts, much of it within the river's watershed.

TOLLAND Last fall, Tolland purchased the 28-acre Becker property along the river. This parcel is on South River Road next to River Park, and it adds an additional 1500 feet of protected river frontage. The property will not be open to the public until a privately owned gravel removal operation has been completed.

COVENTRY Riverview Drive extends along the river from the Merrow Bridge to Jones Crossing Road. The east side of this road is the protected open space of Riverview Trail Park. When the Coventry Planning and Zoning Commission designated this as a scenic road, one of the commissioners cited WRA's letter of support as a factor for his favorable (and deciding) vote.

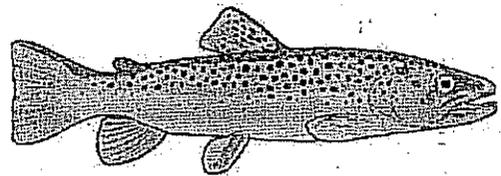
Spring Paddling Tips

Water levels can make or break a canoe/kayak trip on the river. Before going out, check the USGS Willimantic River stream gauge (in South Coventry) at the Alliance website's Recreation page, Paddling section. **Launch sites and maps** are also in this section.

Safety tips: state law requires that between October 1 and May 30 each person must wear a life jacket (PFD), and year-round there must be a PFD aboard for each person. Bring an extra rope and paddle, and tell someone where you plan to launch and take out. If you are a beginner, the safest place to try river paddling is in the slow current at River Park's handicapped-access boat launch on Plains Road (off of Rt. 32 just south of the Rt. 44 intersection in Mansfield Depot).

Fishing Season Opens

The river is stocked with trout, and the first day to try for a big one is **Saturday, April 17**. Fishing licenses and the 2010 Ct. Angler's Guide are available at all Town Clerk offices. Year-round fly fishing (catch-and-release) is available in the Cole Wilde Trout Management Area between Tolland and Willington. It extends for three miles from the mouth of Roaring Brook downstream to the Rt. 74 bridge. Check the Alliance website's Recreation page, Fishing section, for a link to a TMA map.



Calendar

The Alliance is now posting events on its **blog**. You can link to it from our website's Events page and find the latest posting, or check out the website's **Parks and Trails Guide** and explore one of the 25 public access areas along the river.

Saturday, April 24

Upper Willimantic River Paddle Canoe or kayak down this beautiful stretch of river for 8 miles from Tolland to River Park in Mansfield. Sponsored by AMC Ct. Chapter. For experienced paddlers with their own boats. Bring water and lunch. Life jackets required. Contact Betty at 860-429-3206 or pbrobinson@snet.net to register.

Wednesday, April 28

Water Trail Open House and WRA Annual Meeting Bring your suggestions for the water trail, preview the new Paddling Guide, and have some pizza! 6:00 p.m. at Willington Pizza (on Rt. 195 a half-mile north of Rt. 32). Annual meeting at 7:00.

Saturday, May 15

Lower Willimantic River Paddle Canoe or kayak for 7 miles from Eagleville Dam to the Rt. 66 rest stop. Sponsored by AMC Ct. Chapter. For experienced paddlers with their own boats. Bring water and lunch. Life jackets required. Contact Betty at 860-429-3206 or pbrobinson@snet.net to register.

Saturday, May 22

Willimantic Riverfest Family paddling down the river from Eagleville Dam to Willimantic. Sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce and Willimantic Whitewater Partnership. Information: www.windhamchamber.com or 860-423-6389.

Saturday, June 5

Water Trail Celebration and Family Cruise on the River Ribbon cutting and celebration at 10, followed by an easy flatwater trip for canoes and kayaks from River Park to Eagleville Lake. Choice of short or long (two mile) round trip. Bring your own boat.

Life jackets required for all participants. Bring water, lunch optional. Moderate to heavy rain cancels. Time: 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at River Park on Plains Road in Mansfield. Sponsored by Willimantic River Alliance and Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department. For information, call 429-3015 x 204.

Contributors: Vicky Wetherell, Meg Reich

Design and Layout: Ella Ingraham

Inquiries or submissions for the Fall 2010 Edition may be submitted to:

WRA, P.O. Box 9193, Bolton, CT 06043-9193
or info@willimanticriver.org

View previous newsletters at
www.willimanticriver.org.

Web Wise

Eagleville Brook has suffered from excessive stormwater runoff from the UConn campus and nearby development. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Thames River Basin Partnership websites offer good information about the brook's problems, its TMDL project, and efforts to reduce stormwater impacts. The Alliance website has links to these sites on the Conservation page under Current Status and Issues, Impaired Waterbodies List.

For local **natural resource information**, you can't beat a new website sponsored by Ct. DEP and UConn's CLEAR project. www.cteco.uconn.edu offers maps with your choice of overlays showing a variety of data, from watersheds to critical habitats.

Willimantic River Alliance – Membership Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail _____ Phone _____

Contact me about volunteer opportunities for the WRA

Mail completed form and check to:

WRA at P.O. Box 9193, Bolton CT 06043-9193

Memberships	Annual Dues
Senior/Student	\$ 5.00
Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
River Steward	\$ 50.00
Patron	\$ 250.00 (Lifetime Member)

Thank you for joining the Alliance! Your membership dues may be tax deductible.



Founded in 1996, the Alliance has a mission “to protect and preserve the Willimantic River through cooperative and educational activities that promote regional awareness, stewardship, and enjoyment of the river and its watershed.” As a coalition of citizens, officials and local agencies, the Alliance sponsors events such as regional forums and outings and publications, including a newsletter and website www.willimanticriver.org. Our email address is info@willimanticriver.org.

Willimantic River Alliance, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt corporation. The Alliance promotes development of the Willimantic River Greenway, an official state greenway along the river's 25 miles from Stafford Springs to Willimantic. This regional project aims to connect recreational, historical and natural resource features along the river. These connections are being created by the nine riverside towns through natural resource preservation and recreation projects, such as linking trails and improving access to the river.

The river's watershed includes seventeen towns: (in Ct.) Andover, Ashford, Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Ellington, Hebron, Lebanon, Mansfield, Stafford, Union, Tolland, Vernon, Willington, Windham, and (in Mass.) Monson, Wales.

Spring 2010

WILLIMANTIC RIVER ALLIANCE

PO Box 9193
 Bolton, CT 06043-9193

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Town of Mansfield
 Town Planner
 4 S Eagleville Rd
 Storrs Mansfield CT 06268-2574

Benefactor's Exceptional Generosity To Be Celebrated At May 23 Dedication

The generosity and foresight of Ada Wolf will be celebrated May 23 at the dedication of the 102-acre property in Windham she bequeathed to Joshua's Trust.

Town and Trust officials will participate in the dedication of this exceptional preserve, walks will be offered, and refreshments served from 2 to 4 p.m. Members are invited and those who would like to attend are asked to register by calling the Trust office 860-429-9023 and leaving a name and phone number or by emailing that information to joshuastrust@snet.net.

Located on Back Road in Windham, the property includes a 22-acre pond, known as Lake Marie, extensive woods and streams, as well as scenic views. In keeping with Mrs. Wolf's wishes, two small cottages on the property were removed, and the land is being restored to a natural state.

In addition to providing excellent opportunities for passive recreation, the property is located in an area identified by Windham's 2007 Plan of Conservation as having "the highest natural resource priority."

Mrs. Wolf left an endowment with the land, to cover the costs of stewardship, and to allow for purchase of abutting property, thereby increasing the likelihood of creating a future greenway.



A view of Lake Marie, part of the 102-acre Windham property bequeathed to Joshua's Trust by Ada Wolf.

Directions: from Windham Center, follow Route 14 toward Scotland. Take the second left onto Back Road. Go slightly more than a half mile. You will see Lake Marie on your left. The drive into the property is just beyond.

Students, Scientists Will BioBlitz The Church Farm

The fields and woods of the picturesque Church Farm in Ashford will be swarming with life in early June – and there will be plenty of people to count it up.

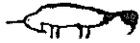
Joshua's Trust, EastConn and Eastern Connecticut State University will host a two-part BioBlitz designed to catalog every species on the property. The event is similar to a national BioBlitz held at a different national park each year.

On Friday, June 4, 120 middle school students from Sterling, Coventry, and Windham will blitz the 228-acre Church Farm property for six hours starting at 9 a.m. Us-

ing previous training in field observation, they will seek to identify all the species they can in one of six categories – insects, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, aquatic life, and plants. They then will share their finds with scientists at BioBlitz Central.

From Friday at 3 p.m. to Saturday, June 5, at 3 p.m., a 24-hour BioBlitz will take place. Scientists in many fields will race to inventory all the species they can on this lovely parcel that belongs partly to the Trust and partly to ECSU. Because of limitations of parking toilets, etc.,

Continued on Page 4



Joshua's Tract Conservation And Historic Trust, Inc.

P.O. BOX 4
MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250
Email: joshuustrust@snet.net
www.joshuaslandtrust.org

OFFICERS:

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Allison Burchell-Robinson
Past President: Warren Church
Vice President: Mona Anderson
VP Land Acq: Richard Hyde
Secretary: Carol Enright
Treasurer: Hamilton Holt
Asst. Treasurer: Pat Mochel

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Newsletter Editors:

Madge Manfred, Paul Stern

Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust was formed in 1966 to receive gifts of money and land, or to buy land of historic, aesthetic, or scientific value, for the benefit of future generations.

It is designed to supplement the open space efforts of federal, state and local governments. The Trust protects over 4,000 acres in the region, maintains trails which are open to the public, and publishes *The Joshua's Tract Walk Book*. The office is located in the historic Eagleville Schoolhouse, South Eagleville Rd., in Mansfield.

Office hours: Thurs. 1:30-3:30 pm.
Phone: 860-429-9023

Seven New Board Trustees Bring Valuable Knowledge, Experience

Four new trustees were elected at the annual meeting to serve five-year terms. Additionally, three people have been named to fill unfinished terms. The new trustees are:

Bob Dubos, Chaplin, recently retired from his position as manager of scientific collections for the University of Connecticut Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Bob and his wife own and operate Bats of Bedlam Maple Farm in Chaplin. They recently granted a conservation easement to Joshua's Trust, protecting a beautiful piece of property along the Natchaug River.

Having just completed a two-year term as first selectman for the town of Chaplin, Bob looks forward to working with JT to conserve and preserve the natural world he has always loved.

Melanie Johnston, Hampton, retired from a long career in health care administration, then served as a town selectman for two years. Melanie has been involved in volunteer work in her community and as a board member for many local organizations.

Melanie and her husband have five grown children. Part of their property, bordering the Little River, is covered by a conservation restriction. In addition to her commitment to conservation, Melanie brings to the Trust her skill as a grant writer.

Ted Taigen, Tolland, grew up in Colorado and moved east to earn a doctorate in ecology at Cornell University. Since 1981, Ted has been a professor in ecology and evolutionary biology and has served as advisor to diverse stu-

dent groups at UConn, including the Natural History Club and the men's basketball team. Ted served on the Town of Tolland Board of Recreation for several years and was involved in the planning and development of several natural properties in the town, including Crandall's Park and Heron Cove Park. He and his wife have three children.

Eric Thomas, Coventry, earned a master's degree in natural resources management at UConn while working as an interpretive naturalist at Dinosaur State Park. He joined and soon became chairman of the Coventry Conservation Commission for a 10-year period. Eric remains active with the Town of Cov-

entry, currently serving as chair of the Conservation Corps Committee, stewarding town-owned open space lands. He also helped create the Willimantic River Alliance in the mid 1990s, an organization he still works with today. As a watershed manager for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, he has coordinated the efforts of several groups working to protect and restore watershed functions and values. Eric and his wife Lisa are raising two girls in Coventry. Eric has already served a partial term on the board.

Those appointed to finish unfilled terms are:

Deborah Lee, Eastford, graduated from Wells College on Lake Cayuga in Aurora, NY. After teaching biology and chemistry in The Virgin Islands and the Washington, D.C. area, she earned a Master's degree in biology at West Indies Marine Lab on St Croix, US Virgin

NEW TRUSTEES

Bob Dubos
Melanie Johnston
Ted Taigen
Eric Thomas
Donald Cianci
Deborah Lee
Nancy Polydys

Continued on next page

New President To Take Over At Trust's May Meeting

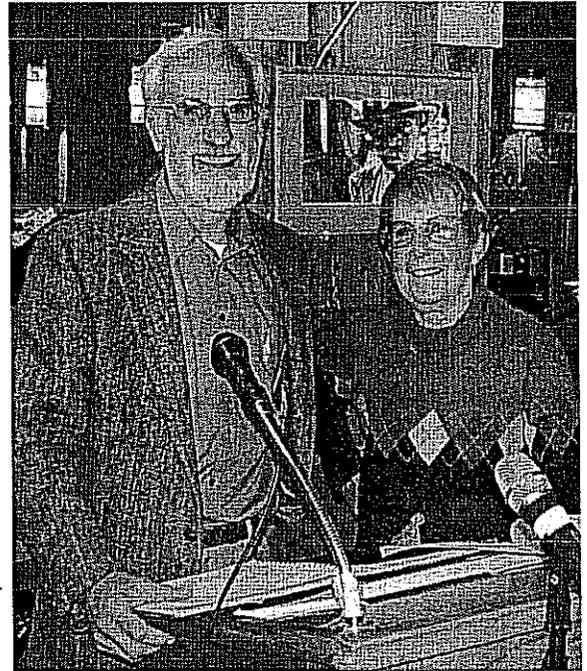
Warren Church will be handing over the presidential reins to Allison Burchell-Robinson at the May 13 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Allison, the president-elect, has been a Trustee since 2004, a productive grant writer, and a member of the Executive, Investment, and Long-Range Planning committees. During that time she also served as treasurer of the Storrs Congregational Church.

After a long career behind the scenes in theater and television, she moved on to become a vice president at Covenant House NYC. She lives on a farm in Ashford that has been in her family since the early 1700s and which she and her husband, former NBC/ABC broadcaster Wally Robinson, have completely restored. They have also reclaimed the pastures that are now home to their horses.

In 2003, the couple donated the 25-acre Burchell-Harris Preserve to the Trust in honor of their late son, Jonathan Edgar Burchell, who was killed while piloting a bush plane as part of a wildlife conservation effort in Kenya.

During his tenure as president, Warren has overseen the Trust's increasingly important role as a leader of conservation efforts, the strengthening of the Trust's organizational capacity, and implementation of the improvements needed to qualify the Trust for national accreditation. He will return to chairing the Conservation Easements Committee, as well as serving on the Executive and Land Acquisition committees.



Current President Warren Church shares a moment at the podium with incoming president Allison Burchell-Robinson during the Trust's annual meeting last month.

New Trustees Well Suited To Their Roles As Conservationists

Continued from previous page

Islands. Later Deborah earned her Ph. D. in ecology from UConn and subsequently taught college-level courses. She specializes in the ecology of stream insects.

She has served on Eastford's Wetland Commission for 19 years and the Conservation Commission since 2002. Deborah and her partner have run Woodland Trails Wildflower Nursery, a native plant nursery located in Eastford, CT since 1998. She has also led botanical hikes and taught evening landscape classes to homeowners, stressing the importance of incorporating native plants. Her term will expire in 2014.

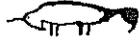
Donald Cianci, Columbia, obtained his law degree from the University of Connecticut after serving two years in the U.S. Army. He has been engaged in the general practice of law for 35 years, with his law practice now located in Columbia, where he, his wife, Carmen, and family, reside. Having grown up in West Hartford, Don watched his bucolic landscape of farms, woodlands and fishable lakes degrade to that of endless subdivisions and malls.

In November, 2009, Don completed a four-year term as First Selectman of Columbia, previously having served two years as a selectman and six years prior to that as a member of the Inland-Wetlands & Watercourse Commission.

Don is extremely proud that in May of 2008, with the assistance of Joshua's Trust, the Town of Columbia purchased in fee simple the 134-acre Szedga Farm, which is to be preserved in perpetuity as open space. His term will expire in 2013.

Nancy Polydys, Scotland, moved to the Quiet Corner because of her love of nature and soon became a member of Joshua's Trust. Since retiring from the airline industry, she has taken a more active role in a number of local organizations, including the historical society.

A life member of Joshua's Trust, she currently serves on the Membership Committee and assists with distribution of the JT Walk Books in several towns. Nancy has taken workshops to become a citizen-scientist and travels widely, most recently to Cuba on a birding expedition. Her term will expire in 2012.



A Successful Year In Land AcquisitionDemonstrates Donors' Trust In The Trust

"Land acquisition is a process that is highly dependant upon confidence of land donors and their families that the Trust will faithfully carry out their wishes to preserve and protect their property forever," explained Richard Hyde, Vice President for Land Acquisition, in his annual report.

In most cases it takes time for a potential donor to make a decision on whether to donate land or an easement. Consequently, some projects are carried on the books of the Acquisitions Committee for many months, if not years.

During 2009, five families gifted land to the Trust, and one family donated a conservation easement. Additionally, the Trust helped purchase property through a bargain sale, and contributed \$15,000 toward the purchase of development rights on a 104-acre Lebanon farm. As a result, more than 300 acres in six towns were protected.

The gifts of land and conservation easements include the following:

- In March, the Trust received the remaining 80 percent interest in Julie Rankin's gift of 81 acres in Ashford.
- John L f of Storrs donated 18.1 acres in three parcels in June of 2009. L f and his family developed a walking trail they used throughout the years.
- Agnes Fuller of Chaplin donated 15.1 acres abutting the Hubbard Preserve. Although merged with the Hubbard

Preserve, the portion of the preserve that was Agnes Fuller's will be called Agnes' Pasture.

- The Trust took ownership in October of Ada Wolf's bequest of 102.6 acres in Windham, after dam repairs were completed on 22-acre Lake Marie.

A Beautiful Memorial



In March, the Toubman family installed a lovely stone bench at the crest of Ashford's Knowlton Hill in memory of their recently deceased mother, Miriam. It sits next to a similar bench they had previously placed in memory of their father, William. Many a visitor will enjoy these seats where they can contemplate the beautiful vista of the Mt. Hope Valley in the distance.

220 acres of open space at Coney Rock as well as providing access from Mulberry Road.

- In December, Bob and Pat Dubos granted a conservation easement on their 13.5 acre Bats of Bedlam Maple Farm in Chaplin.
- Tractor Supply Company gave a 0.58-acre conservation easement that will help to protect the Trust's White Cedar Bog in Windham.

BioBlitz In Early June

Continued from Page 1

ECSU can allow only 50 people at a time on the site, so while the public is welcome to become involved, prospective participants will have to pre-register for pre-set time slots.

Organizers expect to have number of events for the gen-

eral public – an owl prowl, introduction to dragonflies, bird walks, etc. Check the Trust's web site for a schedule of events to be posted in late May.

Volunteers to help with this event are badly needed – from scientists and amateur naturalists, to help with registration, traffic control, and leading public outings. If you'd like to help, please contact: General volunteers: Joan Hill (860-228-2849 or jhill003@charter.net) or scientists: Juan Sanchez (860-455-0425 or jasdarwin2@charter.net).

Trust's Finances Solid

"I am pleased to report that Trust operations continue to be in good shape and the financial condition of the Trust remains strong," announced Treasurer Tony Holt at the annual meeting.

Highlights are as follows:

Balance Sheet

For the total fiscal year of 2009, total assets increased by \$651,000. Cash was up \$34,000, investments were up \$112,000 and there were additions of land totaling \$505,000.

Income Statement

Operations showed a gain of a little over \$8,000 for the year. We did not take any of the budgeted income from the investment fund.

Gristmill: Major repair activity was dormant for the year. This allowed cash and investments to recover from the expenses of the previous two years. Cash and investments rose by \$15,000 during the year.

Investments

The value of Trust investments appears to have stabilized and resumed growth. The value moved from \$953,000 on 12/31/07, to a low of \$674,000 on 3/1/09 and back to \$882,000 at 12/31/09. In spite of the seeming volatility of that value during this time, the portfolio consistently out-performed the market. For that we can thank our investment advisor, Laurel Grove Capital.



At the April annual dinner meeting, Trust President Warren Church gave awards to Pat Mochel, assistant treasurer; Marietta Johnson, membership, and Tony Holt, treasurer. All three are anchors of the organization's operations and staff the office every Thursday.

The Investment Committee met twice in 2009. Leora Garner, of Laurel Grove Capital, attended both of the meetings.

The detailed financial report for the year ending 12/31/09 is available on request. This is not an audited statement, which the Trust will get later in the year; but it does fairly show the financial condition of the Trust. That condition is excellent and certainly better than it has been for the past two years.

Remember September's Fund-Raising Tag Sale

Joshua's Trust will hold a tag sale fundraiser in September, so please begin saving up your saleable items for donation to the cause.

(No clothes, electronics, books or magazines, please.)

Those who wish to volunteer or donate items should email cnorga@earthlink.net.

Check the JT website later this season for details.

Committee Meets Growing Challenge

Finding ways to increase the financial resources of the Trust is a challenge these days.

As the Trust continues to grow, its need for income to cover stewardship, acquisition, legal defense, and administration multiplies.

In 2009, the Development Committee, chaired by Corine Norgaard, raised approximately \$3,000 at a wine-tasting held at the home of Jean Haskell and Claire Michaels on May 15.

Committee members provided hors-d'oeuvres and more than 50 different wines were provided under the auspices of Bobadil's Spirit Shop located in the Big Y shopping plaza on Route 195. The Development Committee in 2009

continued its campaign to enlist new Life Members. Life memberships cost \$1,000, which may be paid in a lump sum or two annual installments of \$500 each.

New Life Members added in 2009 are: Donald and Vickie Wetherell and Joe Voboril.

A new business membership added in 2009 was Shane Navratil & Co., Certified Public Accountants.

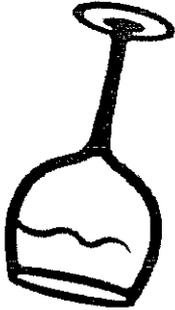
Under Carol Enright's direction, the Committee continued to sell pins, caps, t-shirts and a new item, tote bags with the Joshua's Trust logo on them. These items not only provide funds to the Trust, but also enhanced our recognition.

Make check payable to: Joshua's Trust
Mail to: Joshua's Trust, P.O. Box 4, Mansfield Center, CT 06250-0004.

Name _____
Telephone _____
E-mail address _____
Please make reservations for _____ people @ \$35 each. \$ _____ enclosed
I cannot attend, but would like to contribute \$ _____.

Joshua's Trust benefit wine tasting and art sale reservation form
Please submit by May 7.

\$35 per person. Register by May 7 or email to enorga@earthlink.net



Contribute to the work of land conservation as you taste a variety of fine wines, savor delicious hors d'oeuvres, enjoy rooms of fine paintings, and walk the grounds of a beautifully landscaped property with trails to the Mt. Hope River. Nationally known watercolorist Charles McCaughy and Arts Exclusive will donate 20 percent of any art sales to Joshua's Trust.

Pair Fine Wine And Art With Conservation

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CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC TRUST, INC.
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MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250

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Mansfield Center,
CT
PERMIT NO. 17

Return Service Requested

Mansfield Conservation Comm
4 South Eagleville Rd.
Storrs, CT 06268



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