

Town of Mansfield  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Meeting of 20 October 2010  
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building  
**MINUTES**

*Members present:* Joan Buck (Alt.), Peter Drzewiecki, Neil Facchinetti (Alt.), Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann, John Silander, Frank Trainor. *Members absent:* Robert Dahn, Joan Stevenson. *Others present:* Grant Meitzler (Wetlands Agent).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:33p by Chair Quentin Kessel.
2. The draft **minutes of the 15 September meeting**, with item 8 revised so as to correspond to reality, were approved.
3. **Proposed revisions to subdivision regulations.** The Commission briefly considered draft revisions (dated 7 October) to the subdivision regulations, in particular, provisions for (1) preliminary review of applications (which might allow environmental concerns to be raised before the developer has spent a lot of money on a detailed site plan) and (2) increasing the number of lots that may be accessed by a common driveway (which might encourage more rapid development of land with interior lots, inasmuch as roads are more costly than driveways for the developer). However, because (a) this item was not on the agenda, (b) few Commission members had reviewed the proposal, and (c) the PZC will probably not vote on the proposal before January at the earliest, the Commission took no action at this time. Kessel will draft a letter to the Town Planner regarding the proposed revisions and circulate it by e-mail to Commission members in advance of our November meeting.
4. **Mirror Lake dredging.** This project is apparently going ahead, despite the departure of its principal advocate, President Hogan, and the University's current budget woes.
5. **Swan Lake diversion.** UConn has notified DEP that it may not need the proposed "55-acre diversion" of runoff from the Eagleville Brook watershed to Roberts Brook (via Swan Lake) in order to manage storm-water flows in Eagleville Brook – if its efforts to reduce impervious cover with rain gardens, porous pavement, etc. are sufficiently effective.
6. **Four Corners.** At its 10 November meeting, the Four-Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee will hear a report on the UConn water supply plan, which may call for tapping the Cedar Swamp aquifer. Significant withdrawals could have a significant impact on Cedar Swamp.
7. **Natchaug River Basin Conservation Compact.** A draft "Natchaug River Basin Conservation Compact" has been developed by a working group of municipal officials and other interested individuals. Basin towns that sign on agree "to work cooperatively to balance conservation and growth" by "protecting and restoring the water resources of the watershed", "supporting efforts to link and maintain ecologically viable habitats and rural landscapes", and "working to insure the long-term environmental health and vitality of the watershed". Kessel indicated that the working group will meet tomorrow to finalize the draft. On the assumption that the final version will not differ materially from the draft, the Commission agreed unanimously (**motion:** Drzewiecki, Buck) to the following (conditional) statement of support:

In recognition of the fact that natural resources do not recognize town boundaries, the Mansfield Conservation Commission urges the Town Council to enter into the voluntary “Natchaug River Basin Conservation Compact”. We note that Greg Padick, Lon Hultgren, and Quentin Kessel have participated in the meetings that led to the preparation of this document.

Should any substantial change be made in the draft compact before it is submitted to the Council for approval, the Commission will delay making a recommendation until after our November meeting.

**8. Public Act 490.** The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association has prepared a new booklet explaining PA 490, which offers property tax relief for farm, forest, or open-space land. Anybody who owns a lot of undeveloped land in Connecticut should get a copy.

**9. Adjourned** at 8:47p. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 17 November 2010

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 25 October 2010; approved 17 November 2010.