

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 18 January 2012
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
MINUTES

Members present: Peter Drzewiecki (from 8:07p), Neil Facchinetti, Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann. *Members absent:* Aline Booth (Alt.), Joan Buck (Alt.), Robert Dahn, John Silander, Frank Trainor. *Others present:* David Morse.

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:45p by Chair Quentin Kessel.
2. Consideration of the **minutes of the 21 December meeting** was deferred until a quorum was present. The draft minutes were approved as written after Peter Drzewiecki arrived.
3. **RBC Watershed Protection Grant.** The Natchaug Steering Committee has decided that the deadline for applying to the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) for a Leadership Grant to promote its Natchaug Conservation Action Plan is too close and will instead apply for a more modest Community Action Grant from RBC.
4. **Heidinger Letters.** After some discussion of communications from former resident Kurt Heidinger regarding UConn's status under State water law, the Commission unanimously agreed (motion: Facchinetti, Drzewiecki) to send to following comment to the Town Council:

In several recent missives to the Commission, former resident Kurt Heidinger maintains that the University does not qualify as a water company under Connecticut law and accordingly is not bound by provisions of State water law that apply to water companies, such as the Aquifer Protection statute. The Commission lacks the legal expertise to evaluate Mr. Heidinger's position. However, it believes that the University and its contractor, the Connecticut Water Company, should be covered by State laws and regulations governing protection of water supplies in Aquifer Protection Areas and by other laws and regulations intended to insure safe operations by water producers, suppliers, treatment facilities and distribution systems in the State. Accordingly, if the University and its contractor are in fact not subject to these laws and regulations, the Commission urges the Town Council to enlist the help of our local State legislators in correcting this omission.

5. **Dark Skies.** "The City Dark," a documentary film on light pollution, will be shown at 7:00p, 03 February 2012 at E.O. Smith. A favorable review of the film appears in today's *The New York Times*.
6. **Adjourned** at 8:22p.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 19 January 2012; approved 15 February 2012