

Town of Mansfield  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Meeting of 20 June 2012  
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building  
**MINUTES**

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

**1.** The meeting was **called to order** at 7:33p by Chair Quentin Kessel. Alternates Aline Booth and Joan Buck were designated voting members for this meeting.

**2.** The draft **minutes of the 16 May 2012 meeting**, with correction of a typo, were approved.

**3. IWA Referral: W1498 (Town of Mansfield, N. Eagleville Rd.).** A bike & pedestrian path is proposed along the north side of North Eagleville Rd. from Northwood Rd. to Hunting Lodge Rd. The 6 ft. wide path would be separated from the road by at least 4 ft. of grass, in some places more, as the path curves away from the road around trees. The north side of the road was chosen over the south side to reduce impacts and expense – and because most prospective users of the path live on the north side. Some filling of wetlands would be required between Meadowood and Hunting Lodge Rds., where wetlands lie too close to N. Eagleville Rd.; ‘mitigation’ in the form of an artificial wetland just west of the west branch of Meadowood Rd. is proposed. After some discussion, in which several members noted that efforts to ‘mitigate’ impacts on wetlands by creating new wetlands have often been unsuccessful, the Commission agreed unanimously on the following **motion** (Silander, Buck):

The Commission notes that there will be some impact on wetlands from this project. However, the trade-off for pedestrian and bicycle safety seems acceptable, and the ‘mitigation’ proposed could offset the loss of wetlands if the created wetland actually functions as a wetland (e.g., as a vernal pool). The Commission suggests that the Town contact the Departments of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (EEB) and Natural Resources Management & Engineering (NRME) at UConn for advice on constructing functional wetlands.

{Lehmann participated in the IWA Field Trip to this site on 12 June; his report is attached.}

**4. Water Issues.** The Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) of options in the **Water Source Study for the Four Corners Area** was to have been completed by now, but it has been delayed by inclusion of yet another possible source: Hartford’s MDC has indicated interest in supplying water. A Public Scoping Hearing on the additional source study will be held at 5:30p tomorrow (21 June) in the Council Chambers in conjunction with the Water and Wastewater Policy Advisory Committee meeting.

The Town Council is sponsoring a **Workshop on Water Supply Issues** (including “regulation of public water supply, water quality, aquifer protection, land use and governance”) at 6:00p, 12 July in the Council Chambers.

**5. Hazardous Waste Transfer Station.** The Committee responsible for siting UConn’s Hazardous Waste Transfer Station in a better location – it currently resides behind Horsebarn Hill, in a public water supply watershed – has held its first meeting. Kessel hopes to be informed

of future meetings before they occur so that he can attend. There will eventually be an EIE, on which the public may comment.

**6. Adjourned** at 8:09p.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 23 June 2012; approved 18 July 2012.

Attachment: Lehmann's report on the 6/12 IWA Field Trip

The only IWA site on the IWA/PZC 6/12/12 field trip was N. Eagleville Rd, where a sidewalk/bike path is proposed for the north side of the road between Northwood Apartments and Hunting Lodge Rd. The path would be 5-8 ft wide, separated from the road by a grassy strip at least 4 ft wide; it would meander a bit to bypass large trees, as does the new path along Hunting Lodge Rd. The north side of N. Eagleville was chosen primarily to minimize impact (and secondarily to make it easy for residents too lazy to cross to a sidewalk on the other side). The land on the north side is essentially level, while on the south side there is a steep slope up to a house at one point. Wetlands occur just off N. Eagleville on both sides between Northwood and Hunting Lodge, so some wetland impact is unavoidable, if there is to be a walk- & bike-way. By way of mitigation, an artificial wetland is proposed off N. Eagleville just west of the west arm of Meadowood.