

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 20 March 2013
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
MINUTES

Members present: Aline Booth (Alt.), Peter Drzewiecki, Neil Facchinetti, Quentin Kessel, Michael Soares. *Members absent:* Joan Buck (Alt.), Robert Dahn, Scott Lehmann, John Silander. *Others present:* Linda Painter (Town Planner); Jennifer Kaufman (Mansfield Tomorrow Project Manager); Ken Feathers, Jim Morrow, and Vicky Wetherell (Open Space Preservation Committee (OSPC)).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:33p by Chair Quentin Kessel. The Chair appointed Booth to be a voting member for the meeting.

2. The **draft minutes** of the 19 December 2012 and 20 February 2013 were approved on a motion by Facchinetti, seconded by Booth.

3. IWA referrals. There were no referrals.

4. Membership. After many years of service, including service as Chair, on the Mansfield Conservation Commission, Robert Dahn has indicated a wish to step down. Kessel asked members to make recommendations if they knew of appropriate residents of Mansfield who might like to serve on the Commission.

5. Under "New Business, other" it was agreed to consider a plan for a trail around Bicentennial Pond. This was presented by Kaufman, who is approaching the Town Council to seek support for this project. Facchinetti moved, and Booth seconded, the statement that "The CC supports the construction of a universal access trail around Bicentennial Pond." The motion passed unanimously.

6. Mansfield Tomorrow project. Linda Painter and Project Manager Jennifer Kaufman led a discussion/brainstorming session on the Mansfield Tomorrow project. There was a general discussion of what constitutes a neighborhood and how the POCD and the subsequent zoning regulations might keep rural areas rural, but yet encourage friendly, interactive and cohesive neighborhoods. Walkable trails and roads were seen as being important. Conservation subdivisions, in which houses are clustered in order to preserve open space and forests also ranked high. Painter noted that some towns require conservation subdivisions, and members of the commission generally felt this would be a good approach. Painter noted that often a developer coming to Mansfield faces too many options and that many would be pleased to be presented with firmer guidelines, e.g., the automatic utilization of conservation subdivisions where practicable. Facchinetti has agreed to serve on the Mansfield Tomorrow Housing Focus Group. The CC is still looking for a member to serve on the Economic Development Focus Group. It is important to have a representative in the group who can elucidate the economic benefit of "Green Living," including the value of farms and forests in the protection of clean water and air.

7. Adjourned at 8:45 P.M. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 17 April 2013.

Quentin Kessel, Acting Secretary; approved 17 April 2013.