

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 18 September 2013
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
MINUTES

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

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:32p by Chair Quentin Kessel. Alternates Booth & Buck were designated voting members for the meeting.

2. The **draft minutes** of the 21 August 2013 meeting were approved as written.

3. IWA Referrals

a. **W1522 (Galey, 85 Coventry Rd.)** The applicant proposes to excavate an area of lawn for a pond, the edge of which would be 60 ft. downslope from wetlands at the closest point. After brief discussion, the Commission agreed unanimously on the following **motion** (Silander, Booth): No significant wetlands impact is expected from this project, as long as sedimentation controls are in place during construction and excavated material is removed from the property.

b. **W1523 (Hussey, 500 Mansfield Ave.)** A “caretaker dwelling” is proposed on land S. of the Sidney Crysler house on Mansfield Ave. A pond and swale lie behind the proposed house; its driveway would come within 55 ft. of the pond, the house itself within 33 ft. of the swale. Setback requirements severely limit what can be done to increase these distances. Kessel, conceding that it was not a wetlands issue, wondered nonetheless why the project did not constitute subdividing the property. After some discussion, the Commission agreed to the following **motion** (Silander, Buck): There is some potential for a negative impact on wetlands from excavation associated with this project, potential which could be lessened by taking extra care with erosion controls during construction. All voted in favor save Booth, who objected to the applicant’s unsupported assertion that “the proposed residential use will be less impact on wetlands than the present agricultural use” (Part E) and abstained.

4. **Water Supply.** At the 09 September Town Council meeting, Kessel heard a presentation of the Connecticut Water Company’s plan to supply water to UConn and Mansfield. A 16-inch pipe along Rte. 195 would permit delivery of 2.3 mgd. Regarding UConn’s proposed expansion by 5K students (state funding permitting), UConn’s architect said that the university plans to build enough student housing accommodate 70% of new students, maintaining the current ratio of students housed on campus to students enrolled.

5. **Mansfield Tomorrow.** Kessel has asked Jennifer Kaufman to get drafts of the focus group reports to Commission members so that they can be read in advance of the October meeting.

6. **Streamflow Classifications.** DEEP has published preliminary streamflow classifications for rivers and brooks in Mansfield. Such classifications have management implications; e.g., those classified as “Free-flowing” or “Minimally altered” are supposed to be maintained as such. All the streams in Mansfield are so classified, save for a section of the Fenton River (and certain contributing brooks) north of the Gurleyville Grist Mill, which are classified “automatically” as “Moderately Altered”, though nobody at the meeting knew why. Comments on the proposed

classifications can be submitted until 31 December.

7. Adjourned at 8:31p. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 16 October 2013.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 22 September 2013; approved 20 November 2013.