

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 16 September 2015
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
MINUTES

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

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:30p by Chair Quentin Kessel.

2. The **draft minutes** of the 15 July 2015 meeting were approved as written.

3. IWA referrals.

a. **W1556 (Wassenberg, corner of Woodland & Wildwood Rds).** This is a renewal application for a 2-lot subdivision, which was granted a wetlands permit in 2007. Meitzler visited the site on the 16 September 2015 IWA Field Trip, prior to this meeting. After some discussion, the Commission agreed unanimously (**motion:** Dahn, Silander) to support the original IWA decision of 02 July 2007 approving the application.

b. **W1557 (Niarhakos, 101 East Rd).** Removed from the agenda prior to the meeting, this item will be considered at a subsequent meeting, after the Commission has an opportunity to read hydrology reports submitted by the applicants and interveners. Hard copies and a link to electronic copies will be made available. These reports are sufficiently technical that the IWA will hire a consultant to analyze them, according to Kaufman. Kessel requested that the consultant's analysis be shared with the Commission. An IWA Field Trip will visit the property yet again on 14 October; a public hearing on the application is scheduled for 02 November and will probably be continued.

4. Election of FY2015-16 Officers. Kessel and Lehmann (resp.) agreed to serve as Chair and Secretary (resp.) for another year. After Kessel observed that the average age of Commission members is 70+ and rising, Soares agreed to serve as Vice Chair. The slate was unanimously approved (**motion:** Silander, Facchinetti).

5. Annual Report. The annual report to the Town Manager for FY2014-15, written by Kaufman and included in the packet, was approved unanimously, with thanks to Kaufman (**motion:** Kessel, Silander).

6. Continuing Business.

a. **Monitoring Town conservation easements.** Soares has developed a monitoring form, which he would like to look over again before bringing it to the Commission for approval.

b. **Mansfield Tomorrow.** The new Plan of Conservation and Development, reflecting comments on the draft plan from individual citizens and town committees, was adopted on 08 September and will go into effect 31 days later.

c. **Fanwort Control.** According to the Town's consultant, this summer's herbicide treatment was successful in eliminating fanwort from much of Eagleville Lake, though the invasive plant is still present in some areas. Follow-up treatment, perhaps supplemented by mechanical removal, will be required next year; some state funding may be available for this. Silander suggested that the Town post information about the control program at lake/river

access points to educate the public.

d. **UConn Agronomy Farm.** Facchinetti reported that a bill requiring integrated pest management on state land was introduced in the legislature. How much support it has and how rigorously DEEP would implement it, if it became law, is unclear.

7. Kessel reported that the **Windham County Conservation Consortium** will host a panel discussion with Eastern Connecticut land trusts at 7:30p on Tuesday, 29 September 2015 at the Windham County Cooperative Extension Center in Brooklyn.

8. **Adjourned** at 8:25p. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 21 October 2015.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 20 September 2015; approved 21 October 2015.