

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 21 October 2015
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
MINUTES

Members present: Aline Booth (Alt.), Quentin Kessel, Neil Facchinetti, Scott Lehmann, Grant Meitzler, John Silander. *Members absent:* Joan Buck (Alt.), Robert Dahn, Michael Soares. *Others present:* Mary Harper (W1557 intervener), Jennifer Kaufman (Wetlands Agent).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:30p by Chair Quentin Kessel. In the absence of Dahn & Soares, Booth was appointed a voting member for this meeting.

2. Booth reported that Buck, who is recovering from grave complications of Lyme disease, wants resign as an Alternate member. The Commission decided to wait to see if she is still of the same mind when she has more completely recovered.

3. **Agenda.** Kaufman distributed hard copies of the IWA Site Plan Review of **W1557 (Niarhakos, 101 East Rd)** by CME Engineering, and indicated that the Commission's input on this application will not be needed until after its November 18 meeting, at the earliest. Accordingly, New Business item 5a: W1557 was **tabled**, and Ms. Harper left the meeting at 7:34p. In advance of the Commission's November meeting, members should read the CME review, and the reports of the dueling hydrologists hired by the applicants and interveners at [ftp://mansfieldct.org/grab/W1557- 101 East Road - Electronic File/](ftp://mansfieldct.org/grab/W1557-101EastRoad-ElectronicFile/).

4. The **draft minutes** of the 16 September 2015 meeting were approved as written.

5. IWA referrals.

a. **W1556 (Manning, 37 Higgins Hwy).** {Note: "W1556" was formerly assigned to Wassenberg's renewal application, which has been withdrawn.} Storm-water draining from Higgins Hwy (Conn. Rte. 31) at the WSW-tending boundary of No. 31 (owned by Robert Manning) now flows west to a wetland over the neighboring property, No. 37 (owned by Doreen Palmer), causing erosion and road-salt contamination of its well. This is a problem that ConnDOT should fix, but getting its attention would apparently require an expensive lawsuit. Mr. Manning instead proposes to spend the money fixing the problem by installing a catch-basin and 200 ft of 15-inch drain pipe in a trench across No. 37, directing the runoff underground instead of over-ground. The Commission noted that the map supplied by the applicant is difficult to decipher, but after some discussion agreed unanimously (**motion:** Silander, Kessel) to comment that:

While there could be some impact on wetlands from road salt dissolved in runoff, it is unlikely to be significantly worse than it is now, given that (a) runoff now enters the wetland from surface flows and (b) the proposed drain will end short of the wetland, allowing water to infiltrate the soil before entering it. The proposed project seems a reasonable and commendable attempt to mitigate an unfortunate situation.

b. **W1558 (Mehrens, 214 Wormwood Hill Rd).** The applicant proposes to install a 12x16 ft shed on a crushed stone pad about 40 ft from a wetland. The ground is level and there does not appear to be a better location for the shed. The Commission unanimously agreed (**motion:** Lehmann, Silander) that, given the level location, the proposed project is unlikely

to have a significant impact on wetlands, as long as standard precautions are observed during installation.

6. 2016 meeting dates. The 2016 meeting dates proposed in the Planning Office memo are not third Wednesdays. They should be corrected – and also checked against religious calendars to avoid significant holidays. Opinion on whether to begin meetings 30 minutes earlier at 7:00p was divided, and it was decided that the Commission would continue to meet at 7:30p.

7. Monitoring Town-held Conservation Easements. Kaufman distributed (a) a draft form letter to people who own land to which the Town holds a conservation easement, announcing a monitoring visit “within the next year;” (b) a conservation easement monitoring report form developed by Soares; and (c) a list of Town-held conservation easements. Kessel asked her to send out the letter to the owners of land encumbered by ten of these easements. The Commission will then schedule monitoring visits to these properties in 2016.

8. Mansfield Tomorrow. According to Kaufman, the new Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD) is now final and can be accessed at the Town’s website. A limited number of hard copies will be printed. Draft zoning regulations pursuant to the new PoCD will be reviewed by Town Planner Linda Painter before being presented to the Zoning Regulations Advisory Group. Booth urged that this group get the draft regulations ASAP to enable input at an early stage in what may be a long adoption process.

9. Fanwort Control. A follow-up fanwort-control treatment of Eagleville Lake will be required in 2016. Contrary to previous indications, 50% of the cost could again be covered by a state grant. The Commission agreed (**motion:** Silander, Booth) to support the Town’s application for a DEEP grant to help defray the cost of the follow-up treatment of Eagleville Lake with flumioxazin in 2016 to control fanwort. All were in favor save Facchinetti, who remains opposed to these herbicide treatments.

10. Adjourned at 8:30p. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 18 November 2015.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 22 October 2015; approved 18 November 2015.