

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the November 16, 2016 Meeting
Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Building
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Neil Facchinetti, Mary Harper, Quentin Kessel, Grant Meitzler, John Silander, and Michael Soares. *Members absent:* Aline Booth, Scott Lehmann and Robert Dahn.

Others present: Jennifer Kaufman (Wetlands Agent, arrived from IWA meeting about 8:30PM). Guests: Gene Likens and Lee Spilbor.

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:35 PM by Chair Kessel.
2. The Chair appointed Harper as a voting member for the meeting
3. The **draft minutes** of the October, 19, 2016 were unanimously approved on a motion by Silander and seconded by Kessel.

4. Gene Likens was introduced by Silander, who had invited him to discuss water issues in Connecticut with the Commission. In reviewing his credentials, Silander noted Gene is the scientist who started the ball rolling on developing a sustainable water plan for Connecticut, based in part on what he saw going on with water issues at UCONN. Gene's research career has focused on the ecology of water ecosystems, and is also the scientist who discovered acid rain phenomenon in the 1960s. He is the holder of the National Medal of Science, and member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Gene noted that about 40 years ago the legislature passed a law to develop a water plan for Connecticut, the point being to better manage the State's resources. A positive result of UConn pumping the Fenton River dry in the early 2000s was Gene working with the University's Tom Callahan which finally led to the CT Water Summit in Hartford in December of 2013. This led to the Connecticut State Water Planning Conference in 2014 and the 2014 Legislature passing another bill to create a water plan. This time; however, a State Water Planning Council was appointed and given the money to hire CDM Smith Consultants to determine just where water is available, how much is there, and how it should be distributed. The Plan is to be implemented by April, 2017. CDM Smith has produced a series of "white papers" for comment and Gene provided the links to these papers. One of several public hearings has already been held in Norwich.

The question arose as to why so little of this information has filtered down to the Commission's level. Certainly the importance of these hearings was not brought to the Commission's attention.

5. IWA referrals.

a. **W1582 (P. and L. Lewis, Ravine Road)** is an application to construct a single family home. Portions of the house, septic system and driveway are located in the upland review area. An IWA license for construction of a single family home was issued for

this property in 2005 and is almost identical to this application. Silander moved and, Soares seconded, that as long as appropriate sedimentation and erosion controls were established during construction and removed after the site is stabilized, that there should be no significant negative impact on the wetlands. The motion passed unanimously.

6. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Quentin Kessel
Acting Secretary