

**Open Space Preservation Committee
Agenda
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
Conference Room B
7:30 p.m.**

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Welcome visitors- Warren Church, President, Joshua's Trust
3. Approval of September minutes
4. Opportunity for public comment
5. Old business
 - November open space bond referendum- information session scheduled for October 22, 7-8 p.m. at the Buchanan Center
6. New business
 - Update open space annual report
7. Reports
8. Communications
 - Minutes
 1. Conservation Commission
 - Other
9. Future agendas
10. Adjournment

DRAFT
Town of Mansfield
Open Space Preservation Committee
September 15 2009 Minutes

Members Present: Steve Lowery, Ken Feathers Jim Morrow

1. Meeting called to order at 7:45
2. Minute of the May and June meeting approved on motion by Feather /Lowery
3. Opportunity for Public Comment:
 - none present
4. Old Business
5. New Business
 - November Open Space Referendum was discussed. Some concerns express were:
Why is it bad not to spend money? Will voter turn out be enough to approve the referendum question?
6. Meeting adjourned 8:30

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Morrow

Open Space Preservation Committee

The Open Space Preservation Committee serves as a resource to the Town Council concerning open space issues. Following guidelines in the Town Plan of Conservation and Development, the committee evaluates various properties, reports on their suitability for preservation and works with landowners and developers in order to suggest and discuss ways in which open space can be preserved.

Accomplishments for FY 2007-2008

- Reviewed properties and made recommendations to the Town Council
- Reviewed subdivision and zoning proposals

Plans for FY 2008-2009

- Continue to review properties for their suitability for preservation according to the Mansfield Plan of Conservation and Development
- Continue to review subdivision and zoning proposals
- Provide input to Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the subdivision regulations

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 16 September 2009
Conference B, Beck Building
(DRAFT) MINUTES

Members present: Scott Lehmann, John Silander, Joan Stevenson. *Members absent:* Robert Dahn, Peter Drzewiecki, Quentin Kessel, Frank Trainor. *Others present:* JC Beall, Katrina Higgins, Grant Meitzler (Wetlands Agent).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:37p by Acting Chair John Silander.
2. The draft **minutes of the 19 August 09 meeting**, circulated by e-mail shortly thereafter, were approved as written.

3. IWA referral W1438 (Beall & Higgins, Wormwood Hill Rd) Because abutters did not receive the legally required notice, the proposal approved by the IWA as W1433 is being considered *de novo*.

Silander participated in the IWA Field Trip to the site on 9/15/09 and made the following observations: (1) The small wetland shown on the site plan did not have any typical wetland vegetation, but may contain standing water at times. To qualify as a vernal pool, water would have to remain in it for at least a month in the spring. A determination of whether this is likely is a matter for a hydrologist. (2) It is also unclear whether the small wetland drains to a pond below (if it does, the potential impact on wetlands may be greater); this also is a matter for a hydrologist. (3) Only a portion of the septic system and a portion of the driveway lie within the 150 ft wetlands buffer; it may be possible to alter the plan slightly so that house, driveway, and septic are not in the buffer (and the proposal needs no wetlands permit).

Concerning (1), Meitzler pointed out that a vernal pool is just a wetland from the perspective of Town wetland regulations, so a finding that it is or isn't a vernal pool has no regulatory force. Concerning (2), he noted that the wetland is in a bowl whose lip rises 12-18 inches above it on the down-slope side.

Stevenson and Lehmann recused themselves, leaving just one disinterested Commission member present, a number insufficient to pass a credible motion, even by the Commission's relaxed standards. Accordingly, the members present agreed simply to pass the above observations along to the IWA. {Beall & Higgins then left the meeting.}

4. 2009 Planning Acquisition and Management Guidelines. These guidelines, updated by the Town Council on 8/24/09, assign to the Commission responsibility for "periodically monitoring Mansfield's existing conservation easements." (IV) Since there are many such easements, this will be a big job. While planning was deferred to a better-attended meeting, it was suggested (1) that we settle on a monitoring period – one year? two years? – and schedule site visits on a monthly basis throughout it, and (2) that we enlist the help of neighbors through letters asking them to report any untoward activity on conservation easements. In response to a query about who is responsible for posting signs demarcating conservation easements, Meitzler said that most easements are connected to subdivisions and that the subdivision's surveyor must certify that boundaries are correctly delineated and signed.

5. Invasive plantings. The CVS site was replanted with invasives because Town regulations cover only new projects, not replantings (unlike current State regulations, which prohibit planting invasives on state land, including UConn property). The sense of members present

was that the Commission should propose stronger regulations to the PZC, but this too was deferred to a better-attended meeting.

6. Adjourned at 8:15p

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 17 September 09