

MINUTES

Members Present: M. Harper, Q. Kessel, E. King, C. Rittenhouse, J. Silander, M. Soares, and W. Ouimet

Members Absent:

Alternates Present: M. Davis

Alternates Absent:

Staff Present: J. Kaufman, L. Painter

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Soares called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Members present are M. Harper, Q. Kessel, E. King, C. Rittenhouse, J. Silander, and M. Soares, and alternates M. Davis. Alternate M. Davis is seated initially for absent member W. Ouimet arriving ~7:30pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kessel MOVED, King seconded approval of the February 16, 2022 minutes as corrected.

Motion PASSED (6-0-1) with Silander abstaining.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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OLD BUSINESS

A. W1625 CPH Mansfield LLC – for an Inland/Wetlands License for mixed use (automotive sale & services, retail and restaurants) at 106 Storrs Road
Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

A. W1420-1 Application of White Oak Condominium Association for installation of wastewater conveyance system
Mark Peterson, PE, introduced the project on behalf of the applicant, beginning at 7:07 pm. The application was previously approved but lapsed without work being completed. Leach field will be north of site, on Town property, under an existing sanitary sewer easement.

Silander asked about vegetation maintenance on the leach field. It may be a good opportunity for pollinators.

Kaufman inquired about maintenance of the wastewater conveyance system. Peterson described a fund that will be established by the applicant for maintenance of the system.

Rittenhouse MOVED and Kessel seconded that the project as proposed would not have a significant negative impact to wetlands provided appropriate erosion and sedimentation measures are employed, inspected, and maintained during construction and those control measures are removed after the site has stabilized. Additionally, the Conservation Commission recommends the following:

- An annual maintenance plan for the system and the leach field that includes consideration for pollinators, specifically with application of native wildflower mix to bare soil to establish desirable species and once-per-year (annual) mowing of the leach field to control woody vegetation and avoiding chemical use.

Motion PASSED (7-0-1) with Ouimet abstaining due to joining the meeting late.

B. Mansfield Apartments Redevelopment: CEPA Scoping
Comments due 3/24/22 by COB

Kaufman described the UConn -> CFPA -> Town transfer and Educational Facilities Area

Harper MOVED and Silander seconded that the Conservation Commission requests a full EIE be completed given potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed multi-fold increase in housing units, parking, and potential impacts to wetlands and water quality of seeps and headwater streams on site and adjacent to the proposed project area. The Conservation Commission notes Moss Sanctuary currently receives foot traffic and inappropriate disposal of waste. Additional suggestions include measures to reduce car traffic, promote non-vehicle modes of transportation, and consider parking to access Moss Sanctuary.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

C. Parks Programming
Summer Content due 3/23/22

D. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Proposals
Town Council voted on proposals. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan and funding to implement the plan was approved. Hunting Lodge Road/West Campus Neighborhood Plan was not funded in this round.

CC discussed submitting a proposal for funding to help with monitoring town easements. Monitoring is a need for the Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation, and Town properties. Could the Parks and Recreation Master Plan include a position for monitoring, stewardship, education, and outreach? Maybe something akin to a park ranger in the National Park System or a Stewardship (and outreach) Coordinator similar to what Joshua's Trust has.

E. Return to In-Person Meetings
Town Council and Planning and Zoning are in-person meetings. We are allowed to hold virtual meetings through April 30th. CC will meet virtually in April.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Soares reported on the easement monitoring conducted March 13, 2022.
- King met with an Eagle Scout regarding signing at Bicentennial Pond, Sawmill Brook, and Mount Hope Park.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were noted:

- Inland Wetlands Agent Monthly Report
- CTDEEP Permit Applications for Use of Pesticides in State Waters
- Earth Extravaganza – Saturday, April 23, 2022, 1-3 pm Mansfield Community Center

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for April 20, 2022. The next conservation easement monitoring is tentatively scheduled for April 30/May 1.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chadwick Rittenhouse".

Chadwick Rittenhouse
Secretary