

MINUTES

Members Present:	Q. Kessel, E. King, C. Rittenhouse, J. Silander, M. Soares, W. Ouimet
Members Absent:	M. Harper
Alternates Present:	M. Davis
Alternates Absent:	
Staff Present:	J. Kaufman

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Soares called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Members present are Kessel, King, Rittenhouse, Silander, Soares, Ouimet, and alternate Davis. Alternate Davis is seated for absent member Harper.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

- Maggie Chafouleas, a UConn Environmental Studies and Journalism student, expressed interest in conservation easement monitoring and remained in the meeting for its duration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kessel MOVED, Ouimet seconded approval of the October 21, 2020 minutes as presented.

Motion PASSED (7-0-1) with Silander abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

A. W1616- Application of the Town of Mansfield for the construction of an 8-car parking lot off Puddin Lane to access Sawmill Brook Park and the Nipmuck Trail

J. Kaufman introduced the application to CC. Proposed work is 65' from wetland. Rittenhouse, from the site visit, noted 3 standing dead oak trees (potential hazard trees) along the foot path that would be removed with the proposed parking area.

Kessel MOVED, Silander seconded, no significant impact to the wetland provided appropriate erosion and sedimentation control measures are enacted during site preparation and construction of the 8-car parking lot at the Puddin Lane access to Sawmill Brook Park and the Nipmuck Trail. The CC supports this project's intent to improve access to Nipmuck trail and reduce parking on adjacent private property.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

B. W1617- Application of Mallory Bagwell for wetland restoration on property located at 512 and 514 Chaffeeville Road

Kaufman introduced the project. This item is tabled due to unforeseen circumstances with the soil scientist hired. A new soil scientist is in place and the restoration plan is forthcoming.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. 2021 Meeting Schedule Approval

Suggested Motion:

Rittenhouse MOVED and Ouimet seconded to adopt the 2021 regular meeting schedule as presented by staff and filed with the Mansfield Town Clerk.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

B. Stream Belt Zoning Next Steps

Soares provided an update on Riparian Corridor Mapping. Kaufman added that this has been moved up on the Regulatory Review Committee agenda.

Kessel reported the Regulatory Review Committee will consider this at the December 1, 2020 meeting. The Riparian Corridor Mapping will be considered separate from Flood Zones per recommendation from L. Painter. Charles Vidich is working with western Connecticut Council of Governments as well, and is happy to work with us and use Mansfield as an example for other towns.

Silander noted that springs and seeps (headwaters) and other intermittent waters are not reflected on the stream maps. Vernal pools are not represented well either. We need better data.

Kaufman reminded CC that every proposed project would have a site plan with field delineated wetlands and watercourses. The overlay zone would say what allowable uses (restrictions) within certain distances from the delineated wetlands and watercourses.

Soares: what should we base the buffer on? All wetlands and watercourses?

Silander will share a data layer with CC. Ouimet will also look for more recent, updated hydrography datasets.

CC members should send datasets and/or model regulations to Kaufman, who will then distribute to CC.

C. Impervious Cover

Kaufman forwarded CC minutes of 10/21/20 to Painter, who forwarded to the Regulatory Review Committee.

D. Conservation Easement Monitoring

Soares recapped 11/14/20 field visit to monitor Gifford Estates 3 conservation easement.

Kaufman suggested making a plan or schedule to conduct easement monitoring. Ideal is 2 or even 3 people in attendance given number of tasks involved.

Next easement monitoring will be 10:00 am on Saturday, December 5th with rain date of following day at the same time.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- No reports.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were noted:

- Monthly Business Report
- CACIWC Annual Conferences
- IWA October 15, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes
- IWA November 5, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for December 16, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Chad Rittenhouse".

Chadwick Rittenhouse
Secretary