

Town of Mansfield  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Meeting of 19 October 2011  
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building  
**MINUTES**

*Members present:* Joan Buck (Alt.), Peter Drzewiecki (from 8:05p), Neil Facchinetti, Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann. *Members absent:* Aline Booth (Alt.), Robert Dahn, John Silander, Frank Trainor. *Others present:* William Shakalis.

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:33p by Chair Quentin Kessel.
2. The draft **minutes of the 21 September 2011 meeting**, as revised on 9/23, were approved.
3. **Porter Meadow.** The Town would like to remove trees and brush from Porter Meadow that are growing up to obscure the view of Mansfield Hollow Reservoir from Rte 195. The Commission unanimously (1) agreed that the proposed removal of trees and brush from Porter Meadow is in accord with Town's management plan for the property, which calls for maintaining a view of the reservoir and (2) approved it (**motion:** Buck, Facchinetti).
4. **Meeting Schedule for 2012.** The Commission unanimously approved (**motion:** Buck, Facchinetti) the meeting schedule proposed for 2012, save for moving the November meeting to the second Wednesday (11/14/12) to avoid Thanksgiving week. Kessel will ask Town Planner Linda Painter to accommodate the date change.
5. Jessie Shea in the Planning Office has proposed moving from paper to **electronic packets for Commission meetings**, as the cost of preparing and mailing out paper is substantial. Lehmann noted that scans of publications (like *Connecticut Wildlife*) ordinarily included in the packet will be huge bit-map files that take a long time to download; he wondered if links to these documents could be provided instead. Kessel will ask if there is a way to do this.
6. The **Windham County Conservation Consortium** is concerned about staffing for and management of the state forests. Staffing has been cut by 50% over the last 15 years, and many state forests operate with no management plan or one that is out-of-date. The Consortium is proposing a pilot program at Goodwin State Forest to improve forest management and demonstrate the economic benefits of doing so.
7. Lehmann asked about the details of a proposed **payment in lieu of conservation easement** for the Listro property, mentioned in the minutes of the OSPC and the PZC. But nobody could supply any information.
8. **Dark Skies.** William Shakalis reported that he and Kessel had met with Linda Painter and PZC member Michael Beal on 9/29 to discuss what might be done to reduce light pollution in town. Ms. Painter seemed receptive and indicated that the Town hoped to get a grant to support updating and unifying its lighting regulations.

Kessel noted that CL&P appears willing to install full cut-off fixtures for outdoor lighting in new projects and when older fixtures wear out.

Shakalis also attended a recent Downtown Partnership meeting to urge that the Storrs Center project incorporate lighting conforming to the Dark Skies model lighting ordinance; he reported that his suggestions appeared to get a receptive hearing. Facchinetti noted that outdoor lighting

for the renovated athletic fields at E.O. Smith was on the agenda for this week's PZC meeting and wondered what, if anything, could be done to limit glare from this facility.

Finally, Shakalis brought to the Commission's attention "The City Dark", an 84-minute documentary film that might be used to promote awareness of the dark skies issue. It could be rented for about \$100 for a single showing, perhaps at E.O. Smith Auditorium. If the Commission wants to sponsor a showing, it would be best to get its sister Conservation Commissions in Willington and Ashford to co-sponsor it and also to enlist the help of teachers at E.O. Smith in encouraging/coercing their students to attend. The Commission unanimously agreed (**motion:** Buck, Drzewiecki) to endorse a public showing of "The City Dark", possibly at E.O. Smith Auditorium, to promote awareness of light pollution and to encourage steps to reduce it. Kessel will contact Gary Bent at E.O. Smith to see if he is interested in working on this project.

**8. Adjourned** at 8:25p.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 20 October 2011; approved 16 November 2011.