

Town of Mansfield  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Meeting of 20 November 2013  
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building  
**MINUTES**

*Members present:* Aline Booth (Alt.), Joan Buck (Alt.), Neil Facchinetti, Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann, John Silander, Michael Soares. *Members absent:* Robert Dahn, Peter Drzewiecki. *Others present:* Grant Meitzler (Wetlands Agent).

**1.** The meeting was **called to order** at 7:30p by Chair Quentin Kessel. Alternates Booth & Buck were designated voting members for the meeting.

**2.** The **draft minutes** of the 18 September 2013 meeting were approved as written. The only record of the October 15 special meeting with the Open Space Preservation Committee (OSPC) appears to be item 3 of the draft OSPC minutes for that meeting.

**3. IWA Referral W1524 (St. Jean, 43 Hickory La.)** The applicant proposes to install three pole-mounted solar photovoltaic arrays on a terrace above wetlands behind the house. Each array would be within the 150 ft regulated area, but distances to wetlands are not given. Distance “B” does not appear to be correctly identified on the hard-to-decipher aerial photo, and the location of the “(2) pole mounts” on the aerial photo appears to differ from that on the map. Pole holes would require excavating an unspecified volume of material; according to Meitzler, one hole would be 10 ft deep, the other two 12 ft deep. No mention is made of wiring for the arrays. After some discussion, the Commission agreed unanimously on the following **motion** (Silander, Soares):

The Commission notes that this application is deficient in certain respects: (1) the volume of material excavated is not specified; (2) will trenching be required to wire the arrays to the inverter and, if so, what provision will be made for erosion control in this process? (3) location of the pole-mounted arrays, particularly with respect to wetlands, is not clearly specified. If these issues are not addressed, there is a potential for a significant wetlands impact.

**4. 2014 meeting schedule.** In 2014, the Commission will meet as usual on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, save December, when the meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 10 December 2014, to avoid the beginning of Hanukkah. A motion (Buck, Kessel) to move the meeting time up to 7:00p failed.

**5. Looming vacancy.** Peter Drzewiecki has too many other obligations and would like to yield his place on the Commission to someone who can attend its meetings. It would be nice to replace him with someone with like expertise in geology, but more important is commitment and willingness to show up. Soares was authorized to invite someone known to him to attend a meeting.

**6. Mansfield Tomorrow.** Draft chapters of the new Plan of Conservation and Development (PCD) relating to the Commission’s concerns should be ready for review at the December meeting. Commission members should read them online in advance; Kessel will inform members where they are to be found. Booth expressed concern that writing zoning regulations pursuant to the new PCD seems to be proceeding without the aid and advice of the zoning focus

group, of which she is a member. That group will apparently be asked only to review the draft and may not be given sufficient time to do this thoroughly.

**7. Greening of UConn.** Silander reported hearing Rich Miller indicate that UConn plans to designate the land it owns in the Fenton River Watershed east of Rte. 195 for conservation and agriculture, limiting development to areas with existing structures. Moreover, new campus buildings are to meet LEED silver standards for energy efficiency, and lighting is being replaced with dark-sky compliant fixtures. This all looks very promising, and it was agreed that Miller should be invited to brief the Commission on UConn's green initiatives. Silander will do so.

**8. Adjourned** at 8:38p. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 18 December 2013.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 21 November 2013; approved 19 March 2014.