

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 17 September 2014
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
MINUTES

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

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:32p by Kessel. Alternate Booth was designated a voting member for this meeting.
2. The draft **minutes** of the 20 August 2014 meeting were approved as written.
3. The Commission agreed to move the **October meeting** to the fourth Wednesday (i.e., 22 October) to avoid a conflict with Joshua's Trust's annual dinner.

4. IWA referrals.

- a. **W1533 (Lessenger, Monticello La).** This application, which the Commission considered at its August meeting, has been revised. The amended application was unavailable for comment at this meeting. {Lehmann participated in the August 27 IWA Field Trip to this site; his report is attached.}
- b. **W1534 (Morrissey, 147 Coventry Rd).** The applicant seeks retroactive approval of an above ground pool and deck, constructed within 150 ft of wetlands. The Commission unanimously agreed (**motion:** Silander, Booth) that, while this project does not appear likely to have any significant wetlands impact, the application should have been submitted in advance, rather than presenting the IWA with a *fait accompli*.
- c. **W1535 (Lopex, 54 Homestead Dr).** The applicant seeks approval for constructing a 10x14 ft storage shed on a slope 40 ft from wetlands. Apparently, site preparation (leveling) has been done, though the shed itself is not yet constructed. After some discussion, the Commission agreed unanimously (**motion:** Silander, Facchinetti) to comment that:

This application should have been made prior to beginning work. It is not clear why the selected site is "the only reasonable one" (Part E), given that a nearby site at the left edge of the driveway "T" would be farther from wetlands and from the side property line. While the shed itself does not appear to threaten a significant impact on wetlands, provided standard erosion controls are employed during construction, storage of gasoline and petrochemicals in it could pose some risk to wetlands.

5. Fanwort control in Eagleville Lake. Mansfield & Coventry have applied for a \$14K DEEP grant to control fanwort in Eagleville Lake with the herbicide Flumioxazin, beginning in June 2015. Fanwort is an invasive plant (probably introduced into waterways from home aquariums) that spreads rapidly, choking out native species. Facchinetti reported that Flumioxazin is "mildly toxic" to fish, according to the EPA, and wondered about the environmental side-effects of the treatment. (The application alleges "no expected negative impacts to the public access" (p.2), whatever that means.) Silander noted that die-off of fanwort, whether natural or consequent to herbicide treatments, could reduce dissolved oxygen. He also wondered why controlling fanwort (as opposed to other invasives) should be a top priority for the Town. The grant requires matching funds, and Mansfield is apparently going to extract its \$7K share from the Open Space Fund, contrary to its intended purpose. As fanwort control will require continuing applications

of herbicide, the Council should budget for it. The Commission agreed to table further discussion of the issue until the November meeting, when answers to some of these questions may be available.

6. Officers for 2014-15. Kessel and Lehmann agreed to continue as Chair and Secretary (resp.); Dahn was volunteered as Vice Chair. This slate of officers was approved unanimously (**motion:** Booth, Soares).

7. Mansfield Tomorrow. If all goes according to plan, a new Plan of Conservation and Development will be adopted in March 2015, and new Zoning and Subdivision Regulations in August 2015.

8. Membership. Kessel is working on finding someone to replace Drzwiecki on the Commission.

9. Mansfield/CWC Water Planning/Advisory Council. Soares distributed copies of material from this group's July meeting

10. Adjourned at 8:40p. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 22 October 2014.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 21 September 2014; revised 22 September 2014; approved 22 October 2014.

Attachment: IWA Field Trip report, 27 August 2014

Dear CC members,

Today I participated in the IWA Field Trip to the Lessenger property on Monticello Lane, the site of the proposed house (W1533) we discussed and commented on at last week's CC meeting. This wasn't as pointless as it sounds, since the applicant is revising his proposal to avoid having to apply for the special permit required for the 800 yards of fill, and we will have to consider a revised proposal in September (probably).

The revised proposal will call for significantly less fill. Instead, rocks (which abound on the property) would be used for a retaining wall along the driveway, and the house would be sited lower. Although a revised plan and map were not available today, these changes would appear to allay our main concerns about this project.

Scott Lehmann