

MINUTES

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Soares called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present are M. Davis, M. Harper, C. Rittenhouse, J. Silander, M. Soares, and W. Ouimet.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rittenhouse MOVED, Soares seconded approval of the 16 February 2023 minutes as presented.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Elizabeth Sparks, Anna Knuttel, and Quentin Kessel are here from the public.

Anna Knuttel asked if the Conservation Commission is elected or appointed. CC are volunteers that are appointed by the Town. She expressed concern that Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning are under the same purview and CC is less pro-active than what they have been historically.

Quentin Kessel stated that he is for Streambelt Zoning.

4. OLD BUSINESS (Skipped to 5a on behalf of the DEEP and UConn people present)

A. Conservation Easement Monitoring

Tentative date of 4/15/23 or 4/22/23 for next monitoring effort.

B. Membership

Chandi Witharana has been appointed as an alternate. Miranda Davis has been raised to member.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. UCONN/DEEP Long Term Monitoring Program for Landfill/Chemical Pit Ground Water - Schedule Modification

Paul Ferri, UConn, suggested that DEEP go first.

Roni Tanguay, CT DEEP, Environmental Analysis in Remediation Division

Tiziana Shea, CT DEEP, Supervisor in Remediation Division

Tanguay and Shea provided a brief overview of the UConn landfill. It is a closed and capped landfill with groundwater monitoring. DEEP can receive requests to change the frequency of monitoring, from quarterly to semi-annual, to annual. This request is based on data collected as evidence that remediation is compliant.

Ferri provided the history of the landfill. UConn operated a landfill from 1960s to the late 1980s. Consistent with practices at the time, rural Universities placed waste in a landfill. There were chemical pits, an incinerator building, and an ash pit adjacent to the landfill. Starting in the 1990s, UConn began the process to close the landfill. Moved Hunting Lodge Rd residents to public water, removed liquids and chemicals from pits, capped, and began monitoring. 1998 DEP (at the time) issued SRD-101, a consent order, that included among other things an interim monitoring plan and remediation plan. 2005-2006 UConn transitioned from interim monitoring plan to a long-term monitoring plan. All sample points identified in both the interim and long-term plans were sampled from 2006 to 2010, providing 4 years of quarterly sampling. That data served as baseline for comparison of future samples.

UConn consolidated the waste, capped the landfill and chemical pits, and put the parking lot on top of it.

Leachate interceptor trenches (like a French drain, underground) installed like two parentheses around the landfill and chemical pit areas. That water is pumped to UConn's wastewater treatment facility.

2010 first request to modify the long-term monitoring protocol, from quarterly to semi-annually. The request was based on ~10 years of sampling, including 4 years of quarterly sampling.

2018 request to modify the long-term monitoring protocol from semi-annually to annually (see letters in packet). The request was withdrawn.

2023 re-submitting the 2018 request and as part of that UConn is meeting with Town staff, the Conservation Commission, and later this month, with Town Council. The request is to reduce sampling to annually, and reduce the number of deep well, shallow well, and private well locations, modify surface water locations, and eliminate inorganic parameters as analytes. The two deep well locations retained provide deep well and shallow well samples. The private wells proposed for pausing do not provide UConn permission to access the wells.

UConn will provide the Town with a Q&A document for posting on the Town website. UConn will post the Q&A on their website as well.

CC asked about data from recent monitoring efforts. Roni from DEEP – the data is publicly available but not yet fully in online form at this time. Without those reports, the CC is not able to assess if the changes proposed are supported by the data collected. Ferri from UConn stated that those reports exist and could be provided.

CC asked for DEEPs perspective on the THF chemical that was found. THF is an “additional polluting substance” that has emerged over time.

Tanguay provided the following: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/site_clean_up/remediation_regulations/TechnicalSupportDocumentAPSAItCriteria.pdf.pdf

Ferri: THF is a PVC glue and can be introduced into the monitoring equipment. The well where this was detected is being retained in the long-term monitoring plan.

CC asked what DEEP has seen in the reports. Tanguay responded the all data points are below remediation-specified levels.

CC asked if the request to change the frequency, number, and extent of sampling is consistent with other sites. Tanguay clarified that the goal is to collect data that is protective, meaning providing evidence that remediation is working. If it is, it is standard practice to reduce the frequency, extent, and number of sites sampled.

CC asked about reducing the frequency of sampling and potential for something to happen that isn't detected. Tanguay clarified that DEEP defines catastrophic as something that would compromise the integrity of the cap or the site, such that the landfill became exposed again. The cap and parking lot over it, with the interceptors, provides limited water infiltration and thus limited movement of any contaminants in groundwater.

CC do we know groundwater movement rate at this site? Tanguay: depends on soils. DEEP can't provide the rate – UConn's consultant has that information.

Rittenhouse MOVED and Ouimet seconded that the data provided prior to the 2018 request were instrumental in assessing that request. In contrast, the 2023 discussion of a request is not accompanied by semi-annual reports. The proposed schedule modification to reduce frequency of monitoring to annually in the fall, reduce and adjust sample locations as described, and eliminate inorganic parameters as analytes, cannot be assessed at this time.

The Conservation Commission recommends the following for consideration by the Town Council:

- To request the semi-annual reports since 2018, as well as a summary of trends with figures since 2006 monitoring, be provided to the Town Council and the Conservation Commission.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

B. Streambelt Zoning – Strategies and the case for Riparian Corridor Protections

Silander provided an overview of Streambelt Zoning, which CC discussed and developed a presentation on circa 2018. CT is the only state in New England without setback requirements; it's up to individual Towns. Thirty-seven towns in CT have developed setbacks.

Soares clarified that a setback is different from an upland review area.

Kaufman has Riparian Corridor Zoning in the cue for a deeper look from a regulations standpoint.

Rittenhouse mentioned that we have a GIS analysis and presentation on this topic, including an assessment of different setback distances.

Stankov relayed his experiences with zoning and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Regulations that are too onerous end up with a lot of variances.

Soares suggested we gather resources and examples from other towns so we can continue working on this.

Discussion Summary: The WestCOG report is informative and provides some examples of paths forward for development and implementation of a riparian corridor plan for Mansfield. The Conservation Commission is willing to gather information, identify examples, and provide input for such a plan.

[Return to Item 4.A]

C. Educational Programming

Soares is running a program about beavers this summer. CC members can work with Stankov if they have offerings for this summer, by Tuesday.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

A. None.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were noted:

A. Monthly Business Report

B. Introduction Letter from Michael Stankov, Environmental Planner

C. Staff Report

Check out the [Mansfield Planning Department webpage](#) for information on development activity in Mansfield.

Also check out [MansfieldTomorrow.org](#) for the planning initiatives in Town, including the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Facilities Master Plan, and information to participate.

D. Public Comments

Silander Watershed letter to town manager.

8. FUTURE MEETINGS

A. Remote vs. Hybrid Meetings Moving Forward

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for April 19, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read "Chad Rittenhouse" in a cursive script.

Chadwick Rittenhouse
Secretary