

MINUTES

Members Present:	M. Davis, M. Harper, E. King, C. Rittenhouse, J. Silander, and W. Ouimet
Members Absent:	M. Soares
Alternates Present:	J. Knighton (at 7:40 pm)
Alternates Absent:	C. Witharana
Staff Present:	M. Stankov

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

King called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Members present are M. Davis, M. Harper, E. King, C. Rittenhouse, J. Silander, and W. Ouimet. J. Knighton is seated for M. Soares.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rittenhouse MOVED, Davis seconded approval of the March 15, 2023, minutes as presented.

Motion PASSED (5-0-1) with King abstaining and Knighton not present at the time of vote

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

A. No member of the public present

4. OLD BUSINESS

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

Attending from DEEP: Deborah Motyka, Tiziana Shea

Attending from UConn: Paul Ferri

Ferri from UConn recapped the LTMP Schedule Modification request. The packet for today's meeting contains the report and data summaries from long-term monitoring that CC requested.

CC asked about surface water monitoring and how decisions to cease monitoring were made.

Ferri: decisions are based on monitoring history, location relative to the landfill, and direction of flow (surface and groundwater).

CC asked about VOCs – are they sampled in bedrock wells only?

Motyka: VOCs are sampled in bedrock, shallow-water, and residential wells. Also, what is reported in the table are only the things detected. Things not detected at all are not reported at all. Some non-detections reported are for instances where something was detected during the sample history.

CC: Going from 3 private wells to 1 private well. Decision was more based on access and not on data?

Motyka: They had permission to sample the 3 private wells of which 2 are proposed to drop. They lost permission to sample other wells despite sending letters requesting permission.

CC: Expressed their thanks to UConn and DEEP for providing additional information regarding the LTMP Schedule Reduction.

Ferri: Asked the CC to send any questions further to Ferri/UConn. If we have no objections that would be helpful to mention as well.

The CC expresses unease that the Schedule Reduction decision removes half of the deep wells, and all but 1 of the private wells, in addition to a reduction in the types of samples collected. Additionally, the CC expresses unease that the LTMP Schedule Reduction does not consider the flow rate, which has not been established, and thus there is uncertainty about how fast the plume(s) are moving through bedrock and shallow waters.

B. Conservation Easement Monitoring

i. Report from 4/15/23 Monticello Lane Monitoring

King reported field observations to the CC.

CC discussed selection criteria: properties that have changed hands recently, properties that have known issues. Also discussed a strategy of reaching out to all owners and abutters as a general awareness campaign.

Next Monitoring date tentatively identified as May 6 with rain date of May 7.

C. Streambelt Zoning - Strategies and the Case for Riparian Corridor Protections

Stankov prepared a memo with the resources he was able to locate. Stankov presented a summary to CC via slide deck.

Town's performance standards has applicable regulations regarding review by PZC. Those standards state: "Wherever feasible buffers of undisturbed natural vegetation of 50' or more shall be maintained along all watercourses and wetlands".

Feasible means a) it can be done, and b) without undue economic hardship.

The Town requests a wetlands value assessment with any proposed project.

Of all New England states, CT generally has the weakest wetlands protections. In CT, activity in URA requires a public hearing. If it will have a significant impact, you can sometimes still do it. In MA, it pretty much can't be done if it has a significant impact.

Silander shared Waterford's model, in which LID and impervious surface is considered as part of review process. Stankov is from Waterford and familiar with the model.

Stankov will look into Mansfield's LID standards for a forthcoming CC meeting.

The CC appreciates Stankov's information gathering and presentation.

D. Membership

This was deemed a holdover from the previous agenda. M. Davis is promoted to member and C. Witharana is a new alternate.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. No new business

6. REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

A. No reports from members.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were noted:

A. Monthly Business Report

i. 2023-04-03

B. 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.

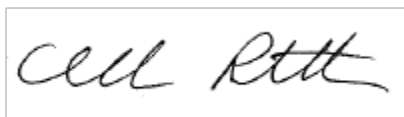
FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for May 17, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Chadwick Rittenhouse

Secretary