

TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of the April 17, 2019 Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Building  
DRAFT MINUTES

*Members Present:* Mary Harper, Quentin Kessel,, Chadwick Rittenhouse, and Michael Soares. *Members absent:* Erin King, Scott Lehmann, John Silander  
*Others present:* Jennifer Kaufman (Wetlands Agent), Will Ouimet.

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:05 PM by Chair Soares.
2. **The minutes of February 20, 2019.** Passed unanimously on a motion and second by Rittenhouse and Harper, as were the minutes of **March 27, 2019** on a motion and second by Harper and Rittenhouse. The minutes of the **April 8, 2019**, special meeting were accepted as written.
3. **Opportunity for Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
4. **New Business.**

**Notice of Violation at 111 Pleasant Valley Road.** This violation deals with a pond having been constructed without a proper permit. The IWA Agent instructed the owner to consult with a wetland specialist to develop a remediation plan for the stabilization of the area. Kessel moved, and Rittenhouse seconded, to approve the plan and recommendations made in the March 30, 2019, email from Steve P. Dumas, certified soil scientist, to Inland Wetland Agent Kaufman with the following additions: The owner should not mow within 10-20 feet of the pond's edge and all invasive species should be removed from the general area. The motion passed unanimously.

**W1609 Town of Mansfield.** Kaufman described this proposed replacement of a culvert between 928 and 945 Mansfield City Road. This replacement is complicated by the wish to accommodate a beaver family on the upstream side of the culvert. Kessel moved, and Soares seconded, that this project may have a significant effect on the wetlands on either side of the road. As proposed, the inlet side of the culvert would consist of a raised structure into which the water would fall before passing through the horizontal portion of the culvert. The height of this raised structure would serve as a dam when the water flow is low. Kaufman was instructed to make the IWA aware of the following questions: 1) How can this device maintain the natural hydrologic conditions upstream and downstream of the culvert? 2) How will this arrangement contribute to beaver management? 3) It appears this raised structure will sever the aquatic conductivity of the stream and restrict movement of aquatic and other species under the road. 4) Were other designs considered? Rittenhouse and Soares agreed to forward links to Kaufman addressing these issues.

**5. Continuing Business:**

**Whetten Woods Management Plan.** The management plan prepared by forester Jacqueline Kulig (draft dated March 28, 2019) was reviewed, together with an April 5, 2019 letter from Mark Urban to Kaufman. Concern was expressed with the proposed timber harvest and its affect on the vernal pool. It was agreed to limit the activity in the area of the vernal pool as follows: there will be no cutting within 50 feet of the pool. From 50 100 feet the harvest will be limited so as to retain 75% of the canopy cover and from 100 to 400 feet a moderate harvest will be allowed that would retain 50% of the

canopy. The logging road will come no closer than 100 feet from the pool and logging will take place only when the ground is frozen or dry. In Klulig's report it was suggested to strike from stand 3 the prescription to cut ash as close to April 1 as possible since that was likely to conflict with logging under the frozen, or dry requirement. The cavity trees should be inventoried prior to cutting and saved.

**Sustainable CT Update.** Kaufman reviewed the Town's progress

**Conservation Easement Monitoring Update.** Rittenhouse reported that he and King had discussed matters related to monitoring and easement report sheets were being developed.

**Membership.** Genevieve Rigler has her interview set with the Town Manager. Will Ouimet will forward his application to Kaufman.

**6. Other Communications.** Kaufman reported that the Town has approved RFQs for third party reviews for IWA and PZC. These expert reviews would be paid for by applicants for permits.

## **7. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Quentin Kessel  
Acting Secretary