

TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF JULY 10, 2008 7:00 PM
POMFRET TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
(THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED)

Members present: Ann Hennen, Chairman; Walter McGinn, Vice Chairman; Pamela Cartledge, Lisette Rimer, Murray Buttner, Liz Cartier, William Lewis, and Robert Lussier, and Eric Johnson, Alternate. Members Absent: Carole Buttner, Cheryl Kapelner-Champ, James Robbins, Leigh Grossman, Alternate, and Linda Rich, Alternate.

- I. **Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** Ann Hennen, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- II. **Seat Alternate as needed** – Not needed.
- III. **Items to be added to the Agenda** – None.
- IV. **Approve Minutes of the Meeting of June 12, 2008.** There were some changes to the minutes. Walter McGinn made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Murray Buttner seconded. Approved unanimously.
- V. **Citizen Participation** – Hennen stated that the public hearing was closed and we could not hear comments about that. Cindy Sullivan asked for a draft of the Conservation Plan. One was sent to Bob. Maureen Nicholson was present to make comments on the Conservation Plan but did not get draft till a few minutes ago. Hennen stated the draft is available to anyone who asks for it. Nicholson gave the commission several handouts.
- VI. **Unfinished Business**
 1. Conservation Easement Workshop – We will try to come up with a date in the Fall.
 2. Conservation Plan – Final Draft – Vote on Plan. The Commission went through the plan for typos, punctuation and any changes that were made from the Public Hearing information which was received during the public hearing. Hennen stated that she had spoken to James Robbins and he stated he had misspoken about vernal pools being state certified. A Wetland Scientist is to identify the wetland areas by the soils. Anyone can identify a vernal pool. Mapping of them is legitimate. In new development an Engineer asks a Soil Scientist to identify all wetlands and watercourses on a property, it is then flagged. Paula Coughlin has submitted a disc with 67 vernal pools which have been identified. We need to protect our planet and

environment. Lussier reported that there are no State vernal pools which are certified. A wetland and vernal pool should have no activity. Hennen stated that our IWWC tends to help as much as possible to protect vernal pools but will not go against their regulations. What Audubon is doing is correct in mapping the vernal pools. Our hope is the IWWC will use the mapping in their approval process. Walter McGinn made the motion to approve the Town of Pomfret Conservation Plan as amended this evening. Liz Cartier seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. Nominate a Secretary – Hennen stated that Cynthia Kirby had resigned and this has gotten caught up in the shuffle. The Ordinance and By-Laws require a Secretary. The person takes minutes if necessary, chairs meetings if necessary. Liz Cartier nominated Pam Cartledge for Secretary. Murray Buttner seconded. Pam was asked if she would like to be Secretary and responded yes. Hennen asked for any other nominations. There were none. Pam Cartledge was voted Secretary by unanimous vote. Thank you Pam.

VII. New Business

1. Volunteer Project for Vincent Spagnuolo and Michelle Kneeland. They were not present for the meeting this evening. Lisette asked about the building out analysis. She was directed to talk to John Filchak or Sandy Prisløe at UCONN.

VIII. Report of Subcommittees

- a. Members who attend the other commission meetings report. There was nothing to report.

- ## **IX. Communication and Mail**
- Mail was passed around and read. A letter from Bev Champany was read about doing a project for Positively Pomfret Day. We will bring ideas to next months meeting. No CICA WC membership this year.

- ## **X. Citizen Participation**
- Maureen Nicholson stated that she would like to bring to next meeting a Right to Harvest Ordinance. Hennen stated that we would not be able to put it in our plan of conservation. The Town needs to adopt an ordinance first so we can make our recommendation. McGinn explained how we did the Right to Farm Ordinance recommendation. The State Statutes have the ordinance and we supported that ordinance on a local Town level. The State Statutes have no Right to Harvest Ordinance for us to recommend. McGinn called Jean Pillo and she did not know what the right to harvest meant and told me to ask someone else. I didn't find anything when I Googled it. Lewis stated we need to make it clear that it is not land clearing. Hennen stated Best

Management Practices need to be followed to take care of the forests. The Green Team bags will be available for Positively Pomfret Day. Nicholson again handed out information on the right to harvest language. She asked about an Erosion Plan, fee-in-lieu of, web page update, vernal pool identification, forest stewardship plan, article by Steve Broderick, Woodstock Conservation website, our map of important forested land, wetlands demystified article and her disappointment in the plan.

XI. Quarterly Discussion – October, January, April, July

- a. Pick up trash at Canoe Launch – Just a reminder.
- b. 25 Acres or More Conservation Project, Late Fall.
- c. Easement project and oversight – Letter to landowner.

XII. Adjournment. Walter McGinn made the motion to adjourn. Pam Cartledge seconded. Approved unanimously.

*N.B. The final corrected copy will be e-mailed to all for final review.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk