

TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF APRIL 8, 2010 7:00 PM
POMFRET OLD TOWN HOUSE
(THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED)

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

I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m. Cheryl Kapelner-Champ, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Seat Alternate as needed – No one was seated.

III. Items to be added to the Agenda – Guest speaker this evening.

IV. Approve Minutes of the Meeting of March 11, 2010. Liz Cartier stated that she was present at the last meeting and she was marked absent on the attendance. Liz Cartier made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Pam Cartledge seconded. Approved unanimously.

V. Citizen Participation –Unfinished Business –

David Smutnick was introduced along with Si Balch of the New England Forestry Foundation, who was present to do a powerpoint presentation on forest management. Sidney started by describing himself and his credentials. He spoke about the 130 forests which are scattered around New England since 1944, he assists private landowners to manage their land. The NEFF conserves forests, demonstrates good forest care and educates other about forests and forestry. 20 glaciers have scraped New England over the last 100 thousand years, organisms are hardy survivors and they are competing to the death.

New England has been cooling down and change benefits some organisms and discomforts others. We have a larger variety of organisms in Northern Europe because the Alps run east to west and trapped them and in New England we have the Appalachians which run North to South so organisms migrated around and over.

There are three big forest types: 1) Oak – Pine in drier coarser soil; 2) Maple, Beech, Birch which is fine soils with moisture; and 3) Spruce and Fir which is shallow cool wet soils. The change effects everything and the

forest will reclaim it with the return of original species and animals and birds will go up in the forest and down in the open. Biodiversity is introduced diseases, insect pathogens, smallpox, chestnut blight. Native species are deer; house pets and houses, cats and humans. Loss of needed habitat has effected cottontail rabbits; purposeful extirpation of wolves and coyotes which have wolf in them; Ignorance of life histories such as caribou and salmon. In Eastern Ct the dear in invasive plants are difficult problems. Keys to Ecosystem sustainability – Soils, genetic pool and understand. The Basics – Do not let organisms become rare. What is rare, protect them and encourage them. Manage habitats not species. There are different stages of the various conditions that exists – Open and early stage (healthy), Large woody debris like a hollow log has high habitat conditions (leave), Riparian and wetland – cut trees to not silt the brook (always bridge the brooks) for better water quality. Game species like light and food. Non-game birds and mammals have a wide range of preferences. Reptiles like the sun, terrestrial amphibians like less. Do not be afraid to actively manage and change the forest. YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL. Beauty, Recreation, Diverse Wildlife and Income. Work with someone on a long-range plan. TAKE ACTION ON THE PLAN. He then discussed the project on the Forestry Property. Do not be afraid to manage the forest. You can improve it. It will not break. Get an inventory and a plan for the town needs. We discussed a date for a site walk on the NEFF property. May 17, 2010 at 5:00 pm.

VI. Unfinished Business –

1. Lois Orswell Award – update of plans for the 6/16/10 event. The Audubon will have a program ready for the awards ceremony. We need to bring refreshments.
2. P & Z will be looking into the Stonewall Ordinance on the 26th at the Senior Center meeting at 7:00 p.m.
3. Walter McGinn stated that a grant was submitted and the town will supervise the construction. We have a capital equipment expense for a brush hog/cutter, \$25,000.00 for the grant and the project needs to be done by 6, 2011.

VII. New Business

VIII. Report of other town committees, subcommittees and workshops

1. Easement Program Report Up-dates. No new ones have been done due to winter weather.
2. Kapelner-Champ reported that she attended the Selectmen's meeting about the Water Company and stated that she found the Water Company is strong willed. The Water Company stated that if

they get an easement from the town there is no need for town approval. The Selectmen were not interested in that. Kapelner-Champ stated that Mr. Hust will come to talk to us and we are inviting all members of the Selectmen, P &Z, IWWC, ZBA to listen to him speak. Kapelner-Champ thanked Ray Liston and Margaret Washburn for their letter writing campaign. And I am more strong willed than ever about this issue.

IX. Communication and Mail – Renew Magazine subscription.

X. Citizen Participation – None.

XI. Things to Remember –

- a. Pick up trash at Canoe Launch
- b. Pomfret/Putnam Airline Trail
- c. Bring canned or boxed food items for Food Pantry to Town Hall.

XII. Adjournment – Liz Cartier made the motion to adjourn. Bill Lewis seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk