

**TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2010 7:00 PM
POMFRET OLD TOWN HOUSE
(THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED)**

Members present: Cheryl Kapelner-Champ, Chairman; Walter McGinn, Vice Chairman; Ann Hennen, Pamela Cartledge, Secretary, James Robbins, and William Lewis. Members Absent: Murray Buttner, Lisette Rimer, Leigh Grossman, Liz Cartier, 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 7:01 pm. Phil Chester was present and introduced by Kapelner-Champ.

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

III. Items to be added to the Agenda – Green Valley Institute Grant letters.

IV. Approve Minutes of the Meeting of February 11, 2010. Ann Hennen made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Liz Cartier seconded. Approved unanimously. There was discussion about writing letters for the Abington Congregational Church and the Brayton Grist mill to help with repairs each has to make. James Robbins motioned to write two letters of support for their projects. Pam Cartledge seconded. Approved unanimously.

V. Citizen Participation – Guest Speaker Phil Chester, Farm Commission, Town of Lebanon, CT – The attached handout was read and expanded upon by Mr. Chester during his presentation. He also explained that there are funds that the Town of Pomfret could be eligible for for a Farmer’s Market, etc. The commission also needs to work on “Locally important farm lands” mapping. We will do a letter to Jim Rivers. Thank you for coming Phil, we appreciate your valuable information.

VI. Unfinished Business –

1. Lois Orswell Award – The nomination committee discussed the process and the candidates for the Lois Orswell Award. We will award one person this year and the motion was made by Pam Cartledge to award this person. Liz Cartier seconded. The nomination was approved unanimously. The award is tentatively scheduled to be held with Audubon on June 10, 2010 our regularly scheduled meeting.

VI. New Business

1. Breaking into subcommittee work groups as time permits. There was no discussion.
2. Aquifer Protection – Bill Lewis presented a letter to the Selectmen and Economic Commission about the Connecticut Water Company's interest in the Murdock Property. He read the letter to the commission. The consensus was that the Town does not have enough information to proceed to an agreement. The letter will be given to the Selectmen and the Economic Commission at the Selectmen's meeting.
3. Green Valley Grant letters – There was more discussion about the two projects that the Commission has been asked to write letters of support for. The Grist Mill needs to be painted it was built in 1772. The Abington Congregational Church is the oldest continuously used church in Connecticut and needs repairing because it is an historic building. Ann Hennen will write up a rough draft of two letters. Walter McGinn made the motion to write the letters of support. Bill Lewis seconded. Approved unanimously.

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. Pomfret/Putnam Airline Trail Report - Walter McGinn discussed our Grant application for the Airline Trail. The grant is waiting for some budget numbers. Thank you, Walter for doing this grant.

IX. Communication and Mail – Cartier reported on the Board of Ed budget crunch.

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.
- d. Aquifer Protection Update – Pam, Bill and Cheryl are the sub-committee.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Morin, Clerk