

TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 11, 2011 7:00 PM
POMFRET OLD TOWN HOUSE
(These minutes have not been approved)

Members present: William Lewis, Chairman; Walter McGinn, Vice Chairman; Pamela Cartledge, Secretary; Elizabeth Cartier, Ann Hennen, and Marcia Lewis, Alternate. Members absent: James Robbins and Cheryl Kapelner-Champ.

- I. **Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** Bill Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Seat Alternate as needed** – McGinn made the motion to seat our Alternate, Marcia Lewis, seconded by Hennen and approved unanimously.
- III. **Added to agenda** – McGinn made the motion to approve the September 8, 2011 minutes as presented. Cartledge seconded. Approved unanimously. Hennen made the motion to approve the October 13, 2011 minutes as presented. Approved unanimously.
- IV. **Discussion 2011 Pomfret land acquisition and town meeting presentation.** First Selectman, Jim Rivers, was present to discuss the Town Meeting in December with Land Acquisition approval on the Call. Rivers went through each property and discussed how payment was to be made. Grants, cash, sharing with other conservation groups. The properties are on River Road, Chase Hill Road, Hampton Road, Babbitt Hill Road and Jericho Road with a total acreage of 266 with cost totaling \$893,000.00. There will be a power point presentation and time to discuss the purchases with the people attending the meeting. Rivers talked about the spend out of 4 million dollars through the years. Small properties were purchased, bonding was used, and the Board of Finance wishes were discussed. The purchases require town meeting approval along with appropriations. We will be preserving land abutting the 4-H, State of CT land, State Forest, Mashamoquet Brook, Wildlife Corridors and various brooks. Rivers asked the conservation commission to do the pictures and history of the properties. He also asked for baked goods and coffee. Rivers asked for other topics we would like to discuss. Lewis mentioned stonewall issues that came up for the Selectmen this summer. Cherry Hill Road and Brooklyn Road. Rivers stated that there should be regulations in the Subdivision plans. The following were ideas to be included in a future

ordinance – breaks in the wall, end to be repaired before it got to the Town to take the walls down. Once they are done with P & Z. The things P & Z needs to do is set up a procedure to do an evaluation as to the condition, value, safety, rebuilding damaged walls, if there is enough wall there not to be taken down along with a 30 day review period for the Conservation Commission to come back with a recommendation. This particular wall is on the town property. The wall may be entirely owned by the Town, if wall is taken down and there are funds, they should be used from a separate fund to preserve the stone and rebuild other walls. Lewis stated that we are trying to get a dialogue about town walls. Rivers stated that we have lost walls on Wrights Crossing Road and Wade Road, which were purchased by people in the business. Sheldon injunction on Searles Road. There will be discussions at the Selectmen level and use recommendations from other groups to make in December. McGinn stated that our approach has been to make an ordinance. A procedure may be better than an ordinance.

Lewis then mentioned the Murdock Property water tests. Rivers stated that the bids need to be done for the boring study. We have a grant to pay for it. We need to know what is there – water, lots or none, aquifer?

Rivers reported that the Selectmen are in the middle of having an Agricultural part of the Economics and Development Committee. There is a meeting on November 15, 2011 to have discussion about the use of the grant monies with Jennifer Koffman. We need to create regulations overview, and decide on Agricultural uses for Idle Wilde/Steakums/Chef Fresh building such as a farmer's market. The meeting is at the Audubon Center at 7:00 p.m. on Day Road. A feasibility study needs to be done of regional farmers to bring products and add value to them. Distribution and Community Kitchen needs to be discussed. Milk and beef are hard to do. There is 20 acres there. Turkey Hill in Voluntown may be interested.

Rivers discussed the tree trimming that is needed. Due to Irene and the snowstorm with no electricity, phone, etc. for a week or more the laws need to be changed. It is a massive undertaking. No canopy over the wires. Nobody lets us cut the trees; they want the fallen ones dealt with. Blue sky is when there is nothing over wires – straight up.

Rivers discussed the CL&P transmission project. Our Town has a 345K-volt line on our land. There may need to be alternatives because of a Day Care on Church St. The alternative may need to go through Barrette Hill Road,

Woods Hill Road that is 30 acres or more. It's a little scary going through neighborhoods. The project is a couple of years away.

A question was asked about renewable energy. Rivers stated this is an accessory to our regulations. Wind, solar and geothermal need to be addressed.

V. Unfinished Business deferred until December 8, 2011 Conservation Commission meeting. We will discuss the 2012 calendar, elect officers and discuss reappointment of members.

VI. Adjournment – Walter McGinn motioned to adjourn. Pam Cartledge seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Morin, Clerk