

**TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF APRIL 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, Carole Buttner, Leigh Grossman, Bob Lussier, Alternate, Eric Johnson, Alternate and Linda Rich, Alternate. Members Absent: James Robbins, and William Lewis.

Ann Hennen opened the Public Hearing by reading the call at 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Pomfret Conservation Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town of Pomfret Conference Room at the Town Hall.

The purpose of the Public Hearings is to allow all interested persons to speak and to receive written communications regarding the final draft of the

Town of Pomfret Conservation Plan

Copies of the plan is on file in the office of the Pomfret Town Clerk, Pomfret Town Hall, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret, Connecticut, during normal Town business hours.

Ann asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak. Bev Champany, Fay Road, stated the plan was well written and please note Page 9 #2. Is that a bad idea? There is no buffer to stop the smells. Hennen stated that the buffer is usually done by the developed not by the farmer. To have a buffer to indicate the farm is here. The Conservation Commission is not a regulatory body. We are not Planning and Zoning.

Maureen Nicholson then spoke that that section is optimum undue infringement on property rights. It is a taking. When I read Woodstock's plan of Open Space, the language in the right to farm act. Buffers are to mitigate fertilizer, not noise and nuisance.

Leigh Grossman stated when he read it what is our intent and it struck me as something to limit development.

Hennen stated that this is a hearing to accept questions and thoughts.

Nicholson stated that this is the exact same language of Brooklyn. Hennen stated the Brooklyn plan was used as a design.

Bev Champany stated look at page 14, when you sent out the survey, #4 ridgeline and abandoned cemeteries were lumped together. I approve of cell phone towers. She told a story and stated there were not enough cell towers and

therefore not to protect the ridgeline. McGinn stated that the state controls cell towers. Rimer stated that we can suggest design of the tower.

Champany then stated on page 18 about the support of the Open Space for trail development. Bill O'Neill of Eastcoast Greenways is great and she can put us in touch with him. He is interested from a National level. Hennen stated thank you. Cell towers are state approved and we would like at the design criteria when appropriate.

Tim McNally stated that we should put the survey numbers in the plan. I applaud page 10, add logging as a renewable resource, complaints about the process, wetland application, working on simplifying, logging should be promoted.

Grossman stated sustainable.

Nicholson stated that when she read the plan for forest based, I suggest the right to harvest as Woodstock does. I strongly urge you to include this. The ordinance needs to be done. The Conservation Commission has the right to promote the overall plan. Look at the big picture and preserve our land.

McNally stated at the bottom of page 11, encourage tree farming, they encourage people to become tree farmers. There are licensed foresters in town. Page 17, encouraging development techniques. Dennis Morissette stated that if he sells house lots on my property he does not want the buffer. Take it out completely. Hennen spoke about her buffer along Route 44 and stated it does work. The farmer does not do it. McNally stated to take out dry cleaning.

Nicholson asked why the draft was not on-line and costs \$5.00. The mission statement, she stated she liked the mission statement of Woodstock. Are the maps updated and is the vernal pool a good map. The landowners are not identified. Hennen stated that Paula Coughlin has identified the pools and she has credentials. Chris Surdam stated that someone went on his property without permission. Hennen stated that if there was someone on his property without permission, he should have reported it immediately. The people involved with the vernal pool project must approve of the study.

Nicholson stated that Brooklyn is not identified, outdoor based recreation and tourism is not identified as an economic benefit, the maps that are used are not explained or identified as in the old plan. Grossman stated that sometimes there are explanations. Hennen stated that if you have seen the maps, it is explained.

Nicholson stated it would add to the depth of the plan. Murray Buttner asked Nicholson what the budget was for the Woodstock Conservation Commission.

Kapelner-Champ stated that she was wondering about all the input. We put forth letters and recommendations that no one seems to listen to. I get the impression that we are not paid attention to.

McNally stated that the commission was political. Hennen asked him to not call this commission political. McNally continued and left mumbling incoherently.

Nicholson stated that page 9 has agricultural resources and recommendations, farm profitability, Tyrone Farm and MaJilly, change the use of the farm, encourage preservation of the farm, how are we going to promote farming.

Hennen stated that we are promoting the farms that exist because the right to farm ordinance exists.

Nicholson stated that somehow we have to address the missing link. Hennen stated that we don't know how the Conservation Commission could get young people to farm. Nicholson stated that identify the bonding issue, fee-in-lieu of, it would be interesting to say what is preserved, and list more accomplishments. There were comments about Wetlands regulations, dairy loopholes, horse farms, and state rights.

Nicholson stated that on the top of page 13 there are two different things, 18% of the town is available for protection or available to the public.

Page 18 – 150 typo.

There were comments about investment in rural development, excellent resources available for funding opportunity, partnership to preserve Open Space, transferring development right.

Nicholson submitted her written comment.

Walter McGinn made the motion to close the public hearing. Liz Cartier seconded. Approved unanimously.

- I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** Ann Hennen, Chairman called the meeting to order after the Public Hearing was closed. Hennen welcomed our new member, Leigh Grossman and our two new Alternates, Eric Johnson and Linda Rich.
- II. Seat Alternate as needed –** Not needed.
- III. Items to be added to the Agenda –** None.
- IV. Approve Minutes of the Meeting of March 13, 2008.** Liz Cartier made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Leigh Grossman seconded. Approved unanimously.
- V. Citizen Participation –** None.
- VI. Unfinished Business**
 1. 2007 Lois Orswell Award – Final Plans. There were 4 nominations for the award. There was discussion about each nominee. Two nominees were voted to receive the award. The other two will be kept in file for next year's award of 2008 if still eligible. There was discussion on where to have the presentation. We will do it at the Old Town House at our June 12 meeting at 6:30 p.m. Rain or shine. There was discussion about going on the radio to "talk up" the award.
 2. Conservation Easement Workshop – Preliminary Planning. There are problems with the dates we chose so the Clerk has been asked to contact Ruth Cutler for her recommendations and dates.
 3. Conservation Plan – Final Draft – Vote on Plan. Kapelner-Champ stated that she felt this should be kept on the agenda for next month.

There were excellent suggestions received this evening. I hope this commission can work together with other commission. There was discussion about the plastic bags, Green Team, and logging, foresting and harvesting, a paragraph about the group. Lussier stated that when he read the plan he was shocked. We need to lead by example. Could you be more specific, he then talked about pgs. 2, 5, 8, 10, and 11. Hennen stated I do not think anyone here is opposed to agriculture. Lussier stated that I'm in the agricultural business and they are opposed. Hennen stated Bob this is probably not the place to discuss this. No one is trying to run you out of town. No one is opposed to logging. There was opposition to it. Grossman stated we got some very good right to harvest information. Let's talk about the language before it becomes a fight. You may find that out there is a lot of disagreement but also a wide consensus. Lussier stated the just wanted to get it out for food for thought. Hennen stated there is no people out there again you. Lussier stated that there are members of this commission. Hennen stated why are you saying that? No one has spoken against logging. Other commission members agreed with Hennen. The Commission looks at guidelines and makes recommendations with the intent to make them benign as possible. We have not seen meetings like this in the past.

4. Bog Bridge for trailhead – The application is on the IWWC Agenda.

VII. New Business

1. Name the Pomfret Times Articles – Conservation Clips was a suggestion.
2. Motorized Vehicle Ordinance – keep on for next meeting.

VIII. Report of Subcommittees

- a. Members who attend the other commission meetings report. Liz reported that the Board of Education and Eastford are still discussing a regional school. Ron Harris presented a 2.5 hour program. Lussier asked if we always talk about the other commissions. He spoke about the Green Team with the townwide trash pick up on May 3rd to meet at PCS at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday. Pick up anything on the side of the road. Recycling, plastic bags, cloth bags and solar technology for the Senior Center and PCS are topics the green team discusses. Linda Rich stated that anyone who does the trash pick up gets a free ice cream. Rimer spoke about the cornfields at the recreation park has a lot of topsoil erosion. A cover crop should be planted. Rich stated they should have to do that. We need to tell the Board of Selectmen. Rimer stated she would talk to Rivers through e-mail. Ann reported the Selectman's meeting was brief. They made appointments to the

Conservation Commission of Alternates. Normally you can fit yourselves around the table to participate and you will be seated to vote.

- IX. Communication and Mail** – Mail was passed around and read. There was correspondence from the Blanchette’s about a wetland problem they are having. We can do nothing for them. A letter was sent to them telling them to come to a meeting if they would like to discuss their issue.
- X. Citizen Participation** – Nicholson stated that there will be a meeting with the auditor, the budget increase is under a mill, there is 250K in the budget for open space, a tight year, adjustments were made by both the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen, and the auditors talk about the numbers before the budget hearing on May 1.
- XI. Quarterly Discussion – October, January, April, July**
 - a. Pick up trash at Canoe Launch
 - b. Pomfret/Putnam Airline Trail
- XII. Adjournment.** Liz Cartier motioned to adjourn. Leigh Grossman seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk