

**TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF APRIL 12, 2007 7:00 PM
POMFRET TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
(THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED)**

Members present: Ann Hennen, Chairman; Walter McGinn, Vice Chairman; James Robbins, Pamela Cartledge, Alternate, Lisette Rimer, Alternate, Murray Buttner, Alternate, and Carole Buttner.

Members Absent: William Lewis, Liz Cartier, Aren Carpenter, Cynthia Kirby, Secretary, and Jeannett Sullivan.

- I. **Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** Ann Hennen, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. John Dilorio was present to discuss the purchase of development rights on the McDaniel property. He passed around a list of assessments used for the appraisal of the property. Dilorio stated he was the owner of a finance co., he lives in Pomfret, and he is on the Board of Finance. He discussed the process of purchasing Open Space, Bonding for purchase and purchased development rights. He was concerned about the value of an acre of land being high and the ability to conserve the land. Dilorio was concerned about the lack of financial analysis prior to the vote. He stated that he felt he would find that this was the right thing to do. Dilorio explained the appraisal information, conservation costs around \$1500.00 per acre vs. developable \$9000.00 per acre. State range is 3500 – 5000.00 per acre. We are setting a market price of \$8100.00 which is too high. It is twice as much as the State suggests. Board of Finance suggested the town purchase the parcel. He detailed the land, the house, 102 acres, some land across the street. There were questions from the commission members and some suggestions. There is a town meeting on May 1, 2007. They have offered \$600,000.00 to the MacDaniels. The Conservation Commission wrote a letter of support for purchase. Chuck Boster was present to discuss the Pomfret Cemeteries. He discussed the history of destroying cemeteries and how he, Ann Hennen and Walter Hinchman searched for the cemeteries. The ordinance should go through a process of Public Hearing, Zoning regulations, and be made part of the Conservation and Development Plan. No town has done that. Ledyard put a similar on in their subdivision regulations. Nick Bellatoni, St. Archeologist will be at Pomfret School for a morning lecture and Chuck is inviting towns, commission members to the program. We can do archeological work with UCONN students. A draft of the ordinance was passed around and Chuck asked for input from all members of the commission. The lecture will be planned for May 14, 15, or 16 in the a.m.

- II. Seat Alternate as needed** – Pam Cartledge was seated.
- III. Items to be added to the Agenda** – Move us Airline Trail Cleanup and The Charter Oak. James Robbins made the motion to move up the agenda item and add the Charter Oak which was seconded by Walter McGinn. Approved unanimously.
- IV. Approve Minutes of the Meeting of March 8, 2007.** Walter McGinn made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Murray Buttner seconded. Approved unanimously.
- V. Citizen Participation** – None.
- VI. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Easement Project and Oversight – Ann is working on the Letter to landowner.
 - b. Farm Ordinance Update – Pam and Cheryl met and need to know what other things are needed to move forward. Copy of Woodstock’s ordinance was handed out.
 - c. Trailhead behind the town hall update. A new application was submitted to the IWWC.
 - d. Airline Trail Cleanup Project - James Robbins stated that Needleseye Road trail has trees down. He, McGinn and Folsom walked the area and trees are growing as well as multiflora rose. He described the work to be done and Rivers offered the town staff to help with the project. Brushhogs, chainsaws and volunteers are needed. There is a drainage ditch that needs attention. Audubon is supporting the project. It is set for May 26, 2007. For liability we need to have volunteers sign in and out. Robbins, McGinn and Glen to meet at the old train station on April 27, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.
 - e. Update Conservation Plan report. We are overwhelmed by the response. Note to Pomfret Times that it will not be ready for May. The commission and helpers will compile information on April 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.
- VII. New Business**
 - a. High Priority Selection – Liz was not present for discussion.
 - b. Walking Weekend – Chuck Boster and a cemetery walk.
 - c. Land Acquisition Fund – A letter will be done.
 - d. Charter Oak - There is a Charter Oak outside of the town hall. A plaque and ceremony should be planned. Walter stated that the Earth Club may be interested in participating.

VIII. Report of Subcommittees

- a. Members who attend the other commission meetings report. McGinn reported that the Recreation Site Development Committee is working on: the Lion's pavilion is to be finished, a septic system is needed, swimming in the pond which is shallow, Recreation Department Disc Golf and the amount of land that is left may not sustain tennis court, basketball, etc. It is a wetland area, steep and we need a flat, dry area. Hennen reported about the Selectmen meeting: there was discussion about Mr. Lussier's request to widen Weatherbee Road. There was a P & Z public hearing about zoning. There were good comments, very specific. Some of our members were there. There is another one coming up.

IX. Communication and Mail – Mail was passed around and read.

X. Citizen Participation – None.

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

- a. Pick up trash at Canoe Launch
- b. 25 Acres or More Conservation Project, Late Fall.
- c. Land Acquisition Fund.

XII. Adjournment. Walter McGinn motioned to adjourn. Murray Buttner seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk