

TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2006
POMFRET TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
(THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED)

Members present: Ann Hennen, Chairman; Walter McGinn, Vice Chairman; Jeannett Sullivan, Secretary, Cynthia Kirby, Pamela Cartledge, Alternate, Liz Cartier, Murray Buttner, Alternate, Carole Buttner, Cheryl Kapelner-Champ, James Robbins, Aren Carpenter, and William Lewis. Members Absent: Ray Liston, and Lisette Rimer, Alternate.

- I. **Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** Ann Hennen, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. **Seat Alternate as needed** – not needed.
- III. **Items to be added to the Agenda** – None
- IV. **Approve Minutes of the Meeting of July 13, 2006.** Walter McGinn made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jeannett Sullivan seconded. Approved unanimously.
- V. **Citizen Participation** – Jim Rivers was present to discuss his idea of a trail head for the airline trail behind/to the side of the town hall. The barn is being removed to provide more parking. It may be a good place for an entrance to the airline trail with steps down. There was discussion about the recreation park monies and hours needed for the park in-kind to complete the project. Ann Hennen stated that soon the barn contents will be moved to the basement of the town house. There was discussion about a handicapped access entrance. The commission will look into the future project. Rivers had a second question about the letter the Conservation Commission wrote to the P & Z about the Mashentucket Pequot Tribal zoning amendment. Hennen stated that our letter was sent before James Rabbitt's text was provided. James Rabbitt was sent an e-mail with no response. Rivers stated that the commission was against the concept. Hennen stated that to give a change to the applicant is not acceptable. Applicant can ask for what they want. The P & Z would massage the regulations to compromise with the applicant's request if appropriate. Rivers stated that point is in debate, it depend on who is driving it. If it is something everyone can use to manipulate our regulations to their use. Hennen stated that is exactly what the P & Z should do. Take their needs and then make a regulation for it. McGinn stated that we were very concerned about the density. It appears to be addressed by Rabbitt.

Setbacks were also an issue. We were put off by the answers from the P & Z. Rivers stated that the first hearing is from the applicant, and then they continue the hearing. McGinn stated that there were only 20 copies of that text for 50 people present, how can you comment on the text if you don't have a copy. Hennen stated that the P & Z makes the decision. This is a public hearing and they should hear us. They are the ones to make the decision. This is a big issue. Rivers stated he wanted to answer questions from the community and he wanted to know where this commission stands. If that is what it is, is that a conservation commission concern. Jim Robbins stated that the sent an e-mail to ask questions. There was discussion about Mr. Amaral's project which benefited only himself, there is no historical retreat on that site, they took out the firing range and rezoning that parcel for commercial use. There would be 24 buildings with 288 people there. Rivers stated that the 4-H camp is going to want to do something in the large structure. Is that going to be bothersome? Is there going to be similar concern? James Robbins stated they don't have any prior claims on this property. The 4-H has been there for 50 years. Hennen stated it is just an unknown and we do not know what is going to be planned there.

VI. Unfinished Business

- a. P & Z Text Change – Hennen stated that this has been taken care of by James Rabbitt, Town Planner. He has addressed the issues. There weren't as many people at the meeting and not so many questions. They closed the public hearing. There was discussion about James Rabbitt's recommendation. The Tribal Nation did accept the suggestions may by Rabbitt.
- b. Canoe Launch – Jeannett Sullivan stated there were trucks there today around the kiosk. Bill Lewis is to ask Holly Drinkruth for a map of the river. NU to provide the material for the kiosk.
- c. Land Use Presentation Update - Jamie Robbins did the presentation to the members of the Commission. He received recommendations and changes for the presentation.
- d. Easement Report- Hennen passed around a list of the current easements found. We need to write a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission to keep the Conservation Commission informed as to new conservation easements that are placed on the parcel. The clerk's need to keep the commissions informed. Would someone want to monitor the P & Z minutes. Jeannett Sullivan stated she would monitor the P & Z minutes and report back. James Robbins stated that there really has not been that many large development projects. The ZBA has not been too busy.

VII. New Business

VIII. Report of Subcommittees

- a. Members who attend the other commission meetings report. Hennen reported on the Selectman's meeting. There was a project presented to use the Grange as a Senior Center. The fining ordinance for the IWWC will go to the Attorney. P & Z stated the fining ordinance is having a hard time may not pass. Positively Pomfret Day will be held this year on October 7, 2006 tentatively 11:00 – 5:00 p.m. Seely-Brown Village is looking at an addition. There were no pistol permits issued. Liz stated that the Board of Ed is discussion K – 2 issues and modulars. Next is Pre K through 8 issues. There is a new Superintendent, David Packman. There are comments being made to discuss new school with Eastford. They get 75% reimbursement and we get 60%. We have 116 acres to build a school on.

- IX. Communication and Mail** – Tim McNally did a great article for the Pomfret Times. Hennen asked about coming to the town hall for meetings or the school. The consensus was to come to the town hall.

- X. Citizen Participation** – None.

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

- a. Canoe Launch plans – kiosk plans, etc. April 2006
- b. Trails Grant Application, New trails installation and connecting to New England Forestry
- c. Pick up trash at Canoe Launch
- d. 25 Acres or More Conservation Project, August.

- XII. Adjournment.** Liz Cartier motioned to adjourn. Walter McGinn seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk