

**TOWN OF POMFRET**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2007 7:00 PM**  
**POMFRET TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**(THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED)**

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

- I. **Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** Ann Hennen, Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.
  
- II. **Seat Alternate as needed –** None.
  
- III. **Items to be added to the Agenda –** Trail to New England Forestry and Corn Maze.
  
- IV. **Approve Minutes of the Meeting of October 11, 2007.** Liz Cartier made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Murray Buttner seconded. Approved unanimously. Walter McGinn made the motion to approve the October 18, 2007 meeting minutes as amended. Carole Buttner seconded. Approved unanimously.
  
- V. **Citizen Participation –** None.
  
- VI. **Unfinished Business –**
  1. Charter Oak Bench and entrance - The bench could be an Eagle Scout project. Clerk to contact Richard DeLuca about this potential project.
  2. Pomfret/Putnam Airline Trail – Jim Rivers stated that a letter was sent to NECCOG. We need to keep on top of it.
  3. P & Z Workshops - January 9, 2008 is the next workshop on equipment storage and fee-in-lieu of. Rivers stated that there was some discussion about the computation of fee-in-lieu of and the Statutes will not support a standard charge. Hennen prepared a short memo to the P & Z in support of the fee-in-lieu of. Rivers stated that we have fees coming in to the Open Space Fund at \$6000 - \$7000 per lot with interest. It is a non issue. There is an application in wetlands for the gravel extraction on Searles Road.

## VII. New Business

1. January 2008 Town Meeting – Rivers talked about the meeting and had a copy of ideas for the meeting. Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen support the 4million dollar bond. The meeting will be on January 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pomfret Community School. He wants to encourage this meeting as informational for the public vote at referendum. We want to give people an informed choice. Looking forward to a good crowd. Board of Finance and Board of Selectman support the \$75,000.00 Buttner purchase vote, the development rights for Kent Farm which is a valuable piece of the wildlife corridor. We will be voting on these issues. Farm Ordinance too. Hennen asked to see the document prior to voting. Have any changes been made to it? Robbins asked about the vote on the ordinance. Rivers spoke about the Wyndham Land Trust 2 donations to discuss at the meeting. Give details of the gift and acknowledge the gifts. Also an awards night for Citizen of the Year which has not been done for a few years. We need refreshments, PowerPoint, for 250+ people to come. Video, music, babysitting. Hennen asked for a committee to work on the logistics. Carole Buttner, Cheryl and Lisette will work on this. Paula Stahl will be asked to be presenter. There was discussion about the presentation. There was discussion that we may not be able to have the meeting on that day and time because of the Presidential Preference vote. Rivers asked for questions. Cartier asked the status of the Townsend property. There has been discussion about the property with the family. She then asked about the Frankfeuter property. Rivers state that that one is at the top of the list. Robbins asked about Amaral. Rivers stated that this is low on the list.
2. Elect Officers, Appointments – Hennen presented the slate of officers as follows: Ann Hennen, Chairman, Walter McGinn, Vice Chairman and Cynthia Kirby, Secretary. Liz Cartier made the motion to accept the slate as presented. Murray Buttner seconded. There were no other nominations from the floor. The nominations were closed. Unanimously approved. Jim Rivers was present to discuss appointments. He stated that he read the policy. Hennen stated that we have always, when a vacancy arose, we will try to find someone to fill the vacancy and send the recommendation to the Selectman if moving someone from Alternate to Member. When the Selectmen appoint someone we would like to be informed. Most of us have been Alternates and became a member when a vacancy occurred. We did that with Pam and I was told it was illegal. Pam Cartledge read a statement into the record of her many and varied accomplishments as an Alternate and Member of the Conservation Commission from working on the revised conservation plan, several workshops, the Bus Tour for Agricultural,

worked with Cheryl on the proposed right to farm ordinance, workshop for Farmland Trust in 2006, October 2007 creative subdivision, workshop of transfer of development rights, and selling t-shirts. Tim McNally stated at the time that I was a good nomination. Tim McNally did not like that I would not join the Democratic Town Committee. I do not see a reason that I cannot become a member. Robbins stated it is a good recommendation. Hennen we would like her as a regular member. River stated that what is happening, I have been collecting names of people who want to be on commissions and boards. I recently looked at the ordinance. When you appointed Pam as a regular member, I had already been looking for someone. The Board of Selectmen does not do it. The First Selectman does the appointments. Leigh Grossman is being considered and I haven't done anything. I need to get back and talk to people. Aren Carpenter has resigned and three new people are going to continue here. Some have been appointed to 2 year terms and 3 year terms. Eleven members and 3 Alternates. No quorum, you have Alternates. You can't vote in the Conservation Commission, the necessity of Alternates is not a member. You vote on some things. You should all be regular members. I don't see why anyone has to be an Alternate. Ann was incorrect. Looking for recommendations and brings that name forward. If you have names, I can talk about them. I brought up at the Selectman's meeting. I did take the appointment of Pam to be elevated to full member. He is Chairman of the Town Committee as well as Richard Dunn. Robbins asked if there is a statute. Rivers stated you can chew on it. I can fill a 14 member commission. Cheryl Kapelner-Champ stated that Pam has put her time in here and irregardless of the wording; we should go on and keep it as it is. It's good to have people who speak up. Rivers stated he hasn't spoken to Leigh Grossman. He works at UCONN, he write books, he has skills with writing and presentation and he approached me to get involved with the Commission. You have to look for the appointed position. Robbins stated that you are entertaining the idea to get rid of the Alternate. If somebody is interested, it doesn't really matter. Murray Buttner stated that the other thing we gave her unanimous support. I am not as familiar with the commission members. Hennen stated I don't think he would be offended. He will be in Europe. He does not have a letter telling him he is a member or an alternate. Rivers stated he would send the letters out when he decided. Robbins stated how about if you can wait till next month. Give names to Ann to give back to you.

3. Calendar – The calendar was made with the same day of the month, time, and location and was approved.

4. Vernal Pool Funding - Paula Coughlin is looking for funds from the Connecticut Association of Wetlands Scientists. Murray Buttner made the motion to write a letter of support. Carole Buttner seconded. Approved unanimously. The funds request needs the support of the IWWC and Conservation Commission for spring 2009.
5. 4X4X8 old street signs – The town has these available for use. Any ideas?
6. Wolf Den Trails – Walter McGinn stated that there is a need to formally agree to use the north route. McGinn made the motion to pursue the North Route to get to New England Forestry Trail to connect the Airline Trail to the trail system. Robbins seconded. Approved unanimously.
7. Corn Maze – McGinn made the motion that the Pomfret Conservation Commission requests that the Selectmen distribute all profits from the Recreation Commission's proposed corn maze in a manner which benefits the people of Pomfret and the town's recreational programs. Champ seconded. Approved unanimously.

#### **VIII. Report of Subcommittees**

- a. Members who attend the other commission meetings report. Liz stated she missed the last Board of Ed meeting. They are looking at the cost of a new school versus addition and update costs. 34 million for new school with state to give back 55-57% versus 23 million for the up-date. They are going to look at Sterling's new school. Robbins had notions to report. Hennen reported on the workshop for transfer of development rights which is legal in the State of Connecticut. Woodstock, Hebron and Avon have been using it. It allows for designated sending areas – developer buys development rights. We do not have area to develop; they can share with towns that are cooperating. Robbins stated Westborough has this and he wrote the regulations. There are sending and receiving areas. Rimer asked about the kind of services the Town's give to the site. Selling an idea to the town to provide services to the people to make a desirable area in town. It is better done with Commercial and it is a huge success in Washington State, California and New Jersey. Robbins stated it works when people are clamoring for Open Space. Hennen stated she came up with a letter for ERT on the gravel site application which was read into the record. Rimer stated that she read the Environmental Report and the State Conservation Plan. She gave a brief overview of what she read. State Plan wants to save 21% of the land in the State, we have 10% more to go. Forests are broken up in the State with 15k acres. Cheryl went to a workshop. One of the things she learned was that the runoff will be absorbed by

pavers, there is low impact development at UCONN, EastConn had an excellent program.

**IX. Communication and Mail** – Mail was read.

**X. Citizen Participation** – None.

**XI. Things to Remember**

- a. Pick up trash at Canoe Launch
- b. 25 Acres or More Conservation Project, Late Fall.
- c. Easement project and oversight – Letter to landowner.
- d. Farm Ordinance Update

**XII. Adjournment.** Liz Cartier made the motion to adjourn it was seconded by Jim Robbins and was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk