

**TOWN OF POMFRET**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2007 7:00 PM**  
**POMFRET TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**(THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED)**

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

- 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** – Pamela Cartledge was seated.
- III. **Items to be added to the Agenda** – Priority Properties under new business e.
- IV. **Approve Minutes of the Meeting of January 11, 2007.** Walter McGinn made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Liz Cartier seconded. Approved unanimously.
- V. **Citizen Participation** – None.
- VI. **Unfinished Business**
  - a. **Easement Project and Oversight.** Hennen reported that she had a meeting with Jim Rivers and David St. Martin earlier today about checking easements on a regular basis. It is going to take a while to accumulate all the easements, document them, get the documents (deeds, etc) to show the easement, draft a letter to the people who have easements on their property and decide who is going to review the conservation easement on a regular basis. There was discussion about the process, notification, and education of the public. Wetland Demystified can be used, a forum to meet with the property owners. Jim Rivers is supportive and David St. Martin is very supportive. Volunteers will be the Easement Stewards and walk the property with the landowner. The majority of the people will be co-operative.
  - b. **Farm Ordinance Update** – Pam discussed the Farmland in Pomfret as of October 2006 and there are 5 active dairy farms. There was discussion about this and “what is an active farm?” and what is “agriculture”.

- c. Trailhead behind the town hall update - A report will be made next month in March.
- d. Airline Trail Cleanup Project – Robbins reported on his conversation with John Folsom. There is beaver damage, a drainage swale is on site which they are presently working on. There is nothing to stop us from working on the trail. We will walk brush back areas. There needs to be a form from everyone who works on the trails to deal with liabilities to the Town. Ann will speak to Jim Rivers and Walter has some issues. McGinn stated he spoke to Sara Heminway and on 6-2-07 (National Trails Day) she has a program planned. There was discussion about high school students and adults helping and doing the project on 6-2-07. The trail section to be cleared is from Covell Road to Needleseye. We need to pick a date and a rain date for publicity. Hennen reported on development rights discussion with Jim Rivers.

## VII. New Business

- a. Lois Orswell Award Nominees and selection. This will remain on the agenda. We have three nominations which need to be discussed with the entire commission.
- b. Budget Discussion and Approval. Walter McGinn motioned to accept the budget as presented. Bill Lewis seconded. Approved unanimously.
- c. Land Use Leadership Alliance “LULA” information. Hennen spoke about a letter the members received about the LULA alliance.
- d. Trails Grant Application, New Trails installation and connecting to New England Forestry. Not going to do this.
- e. Priority Properties – Cartier requested that the commission work up a list of specific properties that we feel should be protected that may not be part of the Selectmen’s list. We need a subcommittee to develop the criteria and we may want Andy Rzez. to be part of the subcommittee. Cheryl, and Liz will be on this subcommittee.

## VIII. Report of Subcommittees

- a. Update Conservation Plan report. There was a lot of progress made and we need to find the survey that was sent out before. There was discussion about how to send the information town wide. Pomfret Times \$300.00 insert, send with tax bill, and then a reminder. We need a list of the Vacant Land for the subcommittee.
- b. Members who attend the other commission meetings report. Liz Cartier reported that Sandra Ahola is retiring July 1. There was discussion by the Board of Ed for full time positions, library media assistant, increase of tuition to Woodstock Academy of 5%, health insurance is \$98K increase, and the budget overall a 5.9%

increase. Robbins reported that the zba did not grant a variance on Hamlet Hill. Hennen reported that at the Selectmen's meeting there was discussion about several people plan to do away with zoning through a petition.

**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. Pam Cartledge seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk