

**TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF JULY 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, William Lewis, Liz Cartier, and Cynthia Kirby, Secretary. Members Absent: Jeannett Sullivan, Lisette Rimer, Murray Buttner, Aren Carpenter, Alternate, and Carole Buttner.

Call to order at 7:00 p.m. Ann Hennen, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

- I. **Seat Alternate as needed** – Not needed.

- III. **Items to be added to the Agenda** – #Vld. Airline Trail. Walter McGinn made the motion to add this item to the agenda. Bill Lewis seconded. Approved Unanimously.

- IV. **Approve Minutes of the Meeting of May 10, 2007.** Walter McGinn made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Liz Cartier seconded. Approved unanimously.

- V. **Citizen Participation** – David Smutnick was present to tell the commission that the Airline Trail will be featured on a reality show – Hike Across America. The contestants had to walk 50 miles. Charter Communications did a video on the Brayton Grist Mill and at Pomfret School a major studio will be filming “After School”. There is a casting call for students and teachers as extras.

- VI. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Farm Ordinance Update - The Farm Ordinance was given to the Selectmen who give it to the Town Attorney who prepares it for a Town Meeting in October 2007.
 - b. Update Conservation Plan report - It is in draft form to be reviewed for the August meeting.
 - c. Vernal Pool Report – Hennen reported that she gave our complaint to the IWWC last month. They did not let me speak. The letter was read into the record. James Rabbitt stated he would look into it and prepare a written report. You can see it from the road on the Airline Trail. We have given a complaint and I asked for an update on the vernal pool in writing. I spoke to James Rabbitt two times and was promised a report. I did tear into it, it has been 5 months. The

complaints were made and they are still dragging their feet. The report should have been done for this meeting. Eventually, we will have to move on to the DEP. It is a documented pool and it is protected. It could be a town road and abutter issue.

- d. Airline Trail – James Robbins reported that there was damage to the Airline Trail by Needleseye Road. Trees were twisted and snapped within 100' of the gate. They weren't cleared away, someone had cut them. They are still on the trail and the trail is passable. There were trees down on the other end from winter damage, Route 44/169 and Needleseye. I don't know if we want to put something in the Pomfret Times.

VII. New Business

- a. High Priority Selection - The committee came up with the High Priority Plan. Look over in the draft and make changes as you like. The draft will be on file at the Town Hall for public review.
- b. New Town Hall Hours - Hennen announced that the town hall will be opened from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and closed on Friday.
- c. Map of Quinebaug River for the Kiosk (enclosed story). Done.

VIII. Report of Subcommittees

- a. Members who attend the other commission meetings report. Liz and David reported that there was a contract submitted to the Board of Selectmen from the Architect, the teachers contract is starting, a new Principal, Jane Dion, started on 7/1/07. The school project does not have the support of the Board of Selectmen or the Board of Finance. Robbins reported that 34 Wetherbee Road is in the courts with Mike Zizka as our Attorney. It is still a matter of the executive session for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Hennen thanked Glen, Jim, and Scott for their help with projects. David Patenaude got his award. Lisette asked me to check and see about the privately owned land on the Airline Trail. It is in the Town of Putnam on Holmes Road. Putnam does not have a Conservation Commission, they have Recreation Department and Willie Bousquet is the Recreation Director. We hoped to work with the Town of Putnam to expand the Airline Trail. They need to clean their side of the trail. We may have to approach the landowner(s). Does our Road Foreman know him? There was discussion about the trail and maybe we can talk to Ruth Cutler whose office is in Putnam. Hennen did attend the Selectmen's meeting and the Station Enterprises lawsuit is up in the air. The smart trailer is a lawsuit (the speed thing) the Town seems to be liable for

\$16,000.00. There is a park facility and field use policy draft. There are problems with horse trailers parking on the site and dogs. Jim Rivers stated that we must be able to make some kind of accommodations for our 4-legged friends. There was discussion about the problems in the park. This is not Walter's committee issue. Hennen reported that Sue Ranhoff was appointed to the Conservation Commission it was an error, she was appointed to the Recreation Park Development Committee. There is no Selectmen morning meeting this month; the next is August 13 at 8:00 a.m. There was a question brought to the Selectmen about land being set aside for ATVs and 4-wheelers. There will be no land set aside because the liability is too great. The Conservation Commission in Greenwich sent out a lot of letters to the Governor, Blumenthal, Senators, Legislators and Statewide Conservation Commission about the Town of New Britain's plan to excavate on aquifer land. They used e-mail too. Kapelner Champ stated that we should send them a thank you for their action.

- IX. Communication and Mail** – Mail was passed around and read. Reminder – When you get the rough draft of the Conservation Plan, please look it over and give your opinions.
- 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. Easement project and oversight – Letter to landowner.
- XII. Adjournment.** Walter McGinn motioned to adjourn. Liz Cartier seconded. Approved unanimously at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk