

TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF MAY 10, 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, Murray Buttner, William Lewis, Liz Cartier, Cynthia Kirby, Secretary, Jeannett Sullivan, and Carole Buttner. Members Absent: Aren Carpenter, Alternate.

Call to order at 7:00 p.m. Ann Hennen, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

- I. **Seat Alternate as needed** – Not needed.
- III. **Items to be added to the Agenda** – None.
- IV. **Approve Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2007.** Walter McGinn made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jeannett Sullivan seconded. Approved unanimously.
- V. **Citizen Participation** – Margaret and Albert Washburn of Wolf Den Road were present to discuss a certified vernal pool on Covell Road. Margaret stated that there is a certified vernal pool on Covell Road, described it to the commission and read a definition of a vernal pool. She had pictures showing salamander eggs, an endangered species and conditions when certified as a vernal pool and as it appears now. She contacted the IWWC through a member, Paul Hennen, but the agent didn't do anything.
- VI. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Farm Ordinance Update – Pam and Cheryl have been working on the projects. Pam stated that agricultural practices are one thing that not all and some may not do. If we want to protect agriculture in town and allow people to do business, they may have to go with this. Hennen stated that if we go with this, the procedure is to go to the Selectmen with a letter for a town meeting. He would get a letter from the Town Attorney. It is in the Plan of Conservation. If we want a Right to Farm ordinance, we need to move this forward. Walter McGinn made the motion to put it to the Selectmen for review and comments. Jeannett Sullivan seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Trailhead behind the town hall update and Charter Oak – There was

discussion about the Charter Oak being incorporated into the trailhead. Possible bench and plaque. The area needs to be cleaned up and the tree marked so it is not inadvertently removed as part of the trailhead project. Clerk to call Glen Postemski and James Rabbitt.

- c. Airline Trail Cleanup Project – McGinn, Robbins and Postemski walked the area that needed to be cleared. Robbins had pictures to show the 30' wide already done project. Andy Rzeznikewicz to do some brush hogging annually too. There will be another meeting with Glen to discuss another section. We need to do a letter of thanks to the road crew and the Pomfret Times. There was discussion about the Modock Road area and Holmes Road into Putnam is very overgrown. 4 wheelers have made hummocks. We will contact the Putnam Conservation Commission to approach them for a joint project. There may be landowner issues there.
- d. Update Conservation Plan Report. The subcommittee is still meeting.
- e. Lois Orswell Award final preparation – there was discussion about titles for the recipient's plaques, members bringing cookies, cheese and crackers, drinks, etc. for the Garden Party.

VII. New Business

- a. High Priority Selection – This will be done in July and become part of the Conservation Plan.
- b. Dr. Nick Bellantoni presentation – We sent out invitations for the presentation which was read into the record.
- c. Land Survey Results – We received 256 responses with some of them on the e-mail and some in writing. Results will be published on-line under both the P & Z and Conservation Commission. We are very pleased about the response.

There was discussion about the kiosk at the canoe launch needing a map. The map was presented. It needs text and it will be a handout at the Lois Orswell Awards.

VIII. Report of Subcommittees

- a. Members who attend the other commission meetings report. Hennen reported that she will be attending a workshop on stewardship programs for information in Brooklyn from 8 – 3:30. Cartier reported that the Board of Education is negotiating the ASME contract and they are getting together with the previous building committee with representatives from the Board of Finance, Selectmen. Robbins reported that the ZBA had a hearing on 34 Wetherbee Road regarding being grandfathered for Mr. Lussier's business. The record showed a

pickup truck and service vehicle being parked on the property prior to zoning. The SBA did not uphold the decision of Ryan Brais, ZEO. Hennen reported that the special town meeting was held on May 14 and she received many compliments on the presentation. David Patenaude reported that people were complaining to him about using Longmeadow for an example. There was discussion about the meeting and the presentation. Cheryl Kapelner-Champ attended the watershed meeting presented for people who live in lake associations. She reported that lakes are hard to maintain and expensive. There were interesting slides but none on rivers, public lakes and ponds. No well or septic information. There was discussion about Paula Stahl who would like to come to a meeting to do a presentation for The Last Green Valley. She will e-mail clerk to arrange.

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 – Hennen reported that she filled 6 bags of trash from the canoe launch. Just a reminder to do the same.
- B. 25 Acres or More Conservation Project, Late Fall.
- c. Easement project and oversight – Letter to landowner.

XII. Adjournment. Jeannett Sullivan motioned to adjourn. Cheryl Kapelner-Champ seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk