

**TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF MAY 11, 2006
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL LIBRARY
(THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED)**

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

- I. **Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** Ann Hennen, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Seat Alternate as needed** – Welcome to Pamela Cartledge as a new Alternate to the commission. Thanks for volunteering.
- III. **Items to be added to the Agenda** – None
- IV. **Approve Minutes of the Meeting of April 13, 2006.** Liz Cartier made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ray Liston seconded. Approved unanimously.
- V. **Citizen Participation** – Chuck Boster from the Planning and Zoning Commission was present to up-date the Cemetery Project. He passed out some cemeteries that have been documented and the others still to be found and documented. There was discussion about some cemeteries that members knew about and how the commission can help with the project. Boster asked for help from a subcommittee to come up with a plan on how to proceed. Cheryl Kapelner- Champ, Murray Buttner, Carole Buttner, Ray Liston and Ann Hennen will be on this subcommittee and they will meet with Chuck Boster and Walter Hinchman, Historian on May 24, 2006 at the Town Hall Conference Room at 2:00 p.m.
- VI. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Land Acquisition Fund and State Statutes Regulating it. Ann stated that she has been to the Board of Finance meeting and she learned that the Selectmen have placed \$1000.00 in that fund. The commission members must continue to mention the budget item to the Selectmen for the next budget.
 - b. Conservation Easement Project Update. Moving slowly but we are finding them. Hennen stated that Sheldon's application was denied.

- c. Conservation People with 25 or more acres meeting. This is tabled till August. Liz needs to contact and follow up with people.
- d. Vernal Pool Update. Hennen reported that a new grant was applied for and the project is coming along.
- e. Environmental Award plans – Hennen reported that the town house needs to be “made ready” for June 15, 2006. We need to clean the town house for the garden party and award ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Cleaning to be done at 10:00 a.m. Members will cook snacks for guests.
- f. Land Use Power Point Presentation. There were technical difficulties with the equipment. This was not done as a run through.

VII. New Business

- a. Bridges on Trail downsizing. There was discussion about do this and the monies that may be available to do the work.
- b. Signage for Canoe launches (dirt bikes unloading). There was discussion again about the Kiosk and now there were dirt bikes being unloaded. A letter will be written to NU about this issue. It may be a liability issue and should be discussed.

VIII. Report of Subcommittees Members who attend the other commission meetings report.

James Robbins stated there was no zba because of any applications this month. Ann reported on the Selectmen’s meeting. Potential gravel extraction to sell and give back to the land acquisition fund, \$200,000.00. There was discussion about the Town Meeting on Thursday. We are please to see that the budget was advertised up front. Maybe there will be a referendum. We need to work at meetings like this to increase the Land Acquisition Fund. They did discuss the Patriotism Fund. Armand Jolly gave \$500.00 to put flags on the telephone poles along Pomfret St. The total cost is \$2,500.00. There is a new fund to create a new trust for plaques, maintenance and we can accept donations and spend the money.

Jim Rivers stated that there was discussion about the possibility of taxing unregistered motor vehicles. There will be a Hazardous Waste day in July. Tufts is no longer interested in Pomfret, they will not return phone calls.

Hennen reported that the Connecticut Wildlife Conference was too much information for a full day. Each speaker was good but tried to impart too much.

IX. Communication and Mail – Was discussed and passed around.

X. Citizen Participation – Jim Rivers was present and stated that there was \$10,000.00 left in the trails fund. Rivers asked if it is not needed

on the trails, can it be used for other recreation needs. We will put trails grant \$ on the agenda. Rivers also asked for discussion about the upcoming Paper Ballot Town Meeting and possible Referendum. Murray announced that the Audubon received a grant of \$900,000.00. Thank you Sarah Heminway.

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

- a. End of year discussion in January 2006.
- B. Aquifer Protection regulation.
- c. Canoe Launch plans – kiosk plans, etc. April 2006
- d. Repair Brayton Grist Mill
- e. Trails Grant Application

III. Adjournment. Liz Cartier motioned to adjourn. Murray Buttner seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin
Clerk