

TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF MAY 8, 2008 7:00 PM
POMFRET TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
(THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED)

Members present: Ann Hennen, Chairman; Walter McGinn, Vice Chairman; Pamela Cartledge, Lisette Rimer, Murray Buttner, Liz Cartier, Carole Buttner, Cheryl Kapelner Champ, James Robbins, William Lewis, Robert Lussier, Alternate, Eric Johnson, Alternate and Linda Rich, Alternate. Members Absent: Leigh Grossman.

- I. **Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** Ann Hennen, Chairman called the meeting to order.
- II. **Seat Alternate as needed** – Not needed.
- III. **Items to be added to the Agenda** – 1. Hennen asked to add Andy Rzeznikiewicz's request for a letter of support to new business and Murray asked to add discussion of the land acquisition open space line item in the budget to new business.
- IV. **Approve Minutes of the Meeting of April 10, 2008.** Hennen stated that the minutes were taped and if you are confused you may listen to the tape. Tim McNally asked about correcting the minutes. He stated that he did not mumble. Hennen stated that the commission is in session and he can talk about it at citizen's comments. Robbins stated that he wished Betty, the Clerk, was present because the minutes were well done. Robbins stated that the minutes from other meetings were not done as well. He asked about the question about drafts being on line. He asked if other commissions put their drafts on line. Hennen stated that she did not know if they do. Robbins asked about the vernal pool property owners list. Was it explained that we do not want people going on the property and destroying the pools. Hennen stated yes. Robbins asked about the comment about the commission being political. Was that comment explained? Hennen stated that the comment was made and I asked the gentleman to cease and desist which he did. Robbins stated there was a question about making it more conducive for agricultural activities to remain or increase in town. Was it made clear that the commission is not regulatory and P & Z does have the power to create the incentive in Town? Hennen stated that this was right. McNally asked a question and Robbins stated he would not answer that. Hennen then proceeded with changes to the minutes and said that on page 4 it is a K not a G in think. Down 9 lines – there are no people out there against. Report of subcommittees. Lussier asked about reporting on other commissions. Rimer told him that we have done this for years so we would

know what was going on in town with other commissions. Cheryl needs to be added to the names of the members present. Robbins stated we needed to note that the Public Hearing was closed. Hennen stated yes. Walter McGinn made the motion to close the public hearing and then we opened the regular meeting. Liz Cartier made the motion to accept the amended minutes. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously. The reminder was given that the public hearing was closed and we cannot receive any more information.

V. Citizen Participation –Tim McNally wanted to state that he does not mumble and wants the comments he made in April included in the minutes, “It is not your (Ann Hennen’s) commission and you don’t represent anybody except your husband.” His comment is now in the record. Nicholson stated that the commission can not vote on the plan at this meeting. It needs to be changed and needs more work. There was discussion about any comments and recommendation being received from the public after the public hearing is closed. Nicholson stated that in her opinion that plan needs more work. Hennen stated that you made that clear last month. Nicholson gave a handout and stated that Woodstock’s budget is \$914.00 08-09, Brooklyn \$3900.00 08-09, and Pomfret is \$2925.00 08-09.

Robbins asked what is the recommendation of the Finance Board for the Conservation Commission. Nicholson stated that the Green Team has \$1000.00 for conservation. She also brought up goals, stonewalls, safety, maps, authority of the conservation commission, bonding of \$4million dollars, leadership role and support of the budget.

Lussier asked if we were restricted on the number of days for approval of the draft. Robbins stated that this is not an application.

VI. Unfinished Business

1. 2007 Lois Orswell Award – Final Plans. Hennen stated that we had a problem with one recipient being unable to attend. We are planning on June 5, 2008 at the Town House at 6:30 p.m. A letter was sent to Southam about holding her nomination till next year.
2. Conservation Easement Workshop – Preliminary Planning. Ruth Cutler and Walter Hinchman and IWWC will meet at Old Town House on 6-18-08. More details after the next meeting. There was discussion about the Thompson program. Pass on to Walter and David.
3. Conservation Plan – Final Draft – Vote on Plan. Hennen stated that we had several people here and they had a problem with Page 9 #2 buffer – we are talking to Selectman about the Ordinances. #2 was read into the record. The idea was to put the buffer up because good fences make good neighbors. Hennen stated that we need to decide if we want to keep working or remove it. Robbins stated that

he went to a workshop on this subject. Farmers who attended stated that the buffer was a good idea for the neighbors who will complain about noise, dust, etc. Hennen stated that is a P & Z issue. There was discussion about the wording. The following sentence will be added. A buffer will be established by the developer on the developer's land at the time of subdivision.

Ridgelines were also discussed. This commission has no authority except to make recommendations, but the P & Z in 12.3 has a segment on towers and has the authority. Kapelner-Champ stated that cell towers we do not need to promote more but use the ones we have and recommend guidelines about design to the siting committee. We do not have this in our plan because there is not much we can do about it. There was discussion about camouflaging them, the new technology that makes them smaller and placing them on town buildings, etc. Hennen read the section about cell towers.

On page 14 there was more discussion about houses on ridgelines.

We already addressed paying for a copy, draft, and up-dating the plan. We came to the consensus to include the survey results in the appendix A. Hennen explained the survey, on-line results, and they were placed in schools and libraries with excellent results.

The Mission Statement in the front of the document was made from the Ordinance. Rimer asked for a copy of Woodstock's Mission Statement. Hennen stated we did not have one. Dawn Adellita of Woodstock came to this commission to make a presentation on their open space program and stated that Woodstock and Pomfret are very different. Nicholson stated she had their objectives. Rimer asked for the mission statement. Robbins when you look at our statement it is generally a statement of your goals. Robbins asked about the objectives or goals, not a mission statement. McGinn stated that there was discussion about when the mission statement was made and he does not think it needs to be changed. Consensus was to keep the same mission statement. Hennen then discussed the maps that did not have a little blurb. We will add brief descriptions to the back of the plan.

There was discussion about the vernal pools map being an on-going inventory of certified vernal pools.

Under purpose of plan the current percentage of 18% on page 13 needs to be updated.

VII. New Business

1. The Green Team Solar Panel Workshop 5/13/08. There will be a meeting to discuss this issue in the cafeteria with John Dilorio.
2. Letter of support for Wyndham Land Trust purchase of #1-97 James Street, 36 acres. Andy Rzeznikiewicz asked for a letter of support for this purchase because it abuts Wyndham Land Trust land and Audubon land and it has 2500' on the Mashamoquet. Murray made the motion to write a letter of support. Bill Lewis seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. Line items for Open Space – Nicholson stated that she would like to see the Conservation Commission endorse the budget this year with the line item of \$250,000.00 for Open Space. Hennen asked is this in open space acquisition fund. Nicholson stated that the money cannot be used unless it is voted on. It will be used to preserve Open Space. Robbins stated – Maureen you recognize that the members of this commission brought it before the Board of Finance. Nicholson stated that there was conspicuous absence from the meeting. Robbins stated there should be recognition for the many years we have been doing this. Nicholson asked again for support of the budget. McGinn made the motion that the Conservation Commission supports an annual appropriation for the purchase of Open Space by the Town of Pomfret. The Commission thanks the Board of Finance and Board of Selectman for their efforts to conserve Open Space. Kapelner-Champ seconded. McGinn made the motion to approve the amended motion. Kapelner-Champ seconded. There was discussion about the mill rate, using funds from the surplus, loss of services, and long-range plans. Boards working together. Kapelner-Champ stated that we are not political and if we say we support the whole budget we are becoming political. This Commission supports Open Space. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Report of Subcommittees

- a. Members who attend the other commission meetings report. None.

- IX. Communication and Mail** – Mail was passed around and read. There are 2 workshops coming up that may or may not be of interest to you. Natchaug Water Basins. You will have to pay for it on your own. Call Betty and she will arrange it for you. Another about CT Food – Agriculture. We received a letter from the Board of Selectmen to be in the Memorial Day Parade at Pomfret Congregational Church 10:00.

- 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. Walter McGinn made the motion to continue discussion of the plan of conservation to the next meeting. Lewis seconded. Approved unanimously.

The map committee will be made up of Murray Buttner, Liz Cartier, Pam Cartledge and Cheryl Kapelner-Champ. Buttner made the motion to adjourn, Lewis seconded. Adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk

These minutes were taken from the recording of the meeting and also Pam Cartledge's minutes as the clerk was not present. Thank you Pam.