

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007 AT 7:00 PM
POMFRET TOWN HALL**

In Attendance: First Selectman James Rivers, Selectmen Timothy McNally, David Smutnick
Approximately 15 citizens.

I. Regular Meeting

1. Open Meeting–7:00 PM/Approve Minutes-October 15, 2007, November 5, and November 15, 2007 – Meeting opened at 7:00 PM by J. Rivers. T. McNally moved to accept minutes of Oct. 15, Nov. 5, and Nov. 15, 2007 as provided. J. Rivers seconded. J. Rivers, T. McNally in favor. D. Smutnick abstained.

2. Discussion and Action on Taped BOS Meetings – J. Rivers stated that in the past the Board agreed to try the taped meetings. The tapes have never been used. J. Rivers made a motion to discontinue taping the Selectmen's meetings. T. McNally seconded. D. Smutnick stated he liked the idea of the tapes. Two in favor of discontinuing taping: J. Rivers, T. McNally. One opposed: D. Smutnick. Motion carries.

3. Citizen Participation & Communications – Charles Boster presented a memo dated December 3, 2007 requesting a procedure be put in place for noticing a Commission member and Chairman if that Commission member's status is to be changed in any way. John Bala stated he did not like the Citizen's Comments being cut from the end of agenda. The second citizen's comments seemed like it has worked over time. He also asked why the tapes are to be discontinued. He felt they would be useful if ever needed. Ann Hennen stated the Democratic campaign stated respect for all and encouragement of participation, yet a citizen's comments is cut from agenda. She felt Board Chairmans should also be consulted if a change or appointment was being considered for their Board. She and Paul Hennen agreed with Mr. Bala's comments regarding the tapes. John Bala stated he had concerns about the guard rail on Cheney Road. If an accident happens there he wanted it noted that the Board of Selectmen had been made aware it was unsafe. David Patenaude commented on the tapes and the citizen comments sections. Citizens Comments had been on the agenda in two places for years. He felt this gave people a better chance to speak. Richard Hall stated he had always heard there was good open debate during Selectmen's meetings. He felt closing off an opportunity for this debate so soon after an election would backfire. Richard Dunn and Katarina Rutkowski agreed. Others agreed as well. Ford Fay asked if there was a new policy regarding appointments. Richard Hall stated advertising openings in the Pomfret Times would be a good idea. Charles Boster asked if there were any job descriptions available for any of the paid positions.

4. Items to be Added to the Agenda – J. Rivers made a motion to add Citizens Comments back the agenda just before Adjournment. T. McNally seconded. All in favor. J. Rivers moved to add Corn Maze Discussion to New Business. D. Smutnick seconded. All in favor.

II. Current Business

1. Road Issues – T. McNally stated he had called the Town Hall with a problem on Day Road. The highway crew had it repaired that day and he wanted to compliment them for it.

2. Proposed 'Right to Farm' Ordinance – Should be ready for Town Meeting in January.

3. Green Team/Recycling – 12 volunteers have come forward. Nothing has started as yet.

4. Update on Senior Center – Seniors from Seely-Brown, Grange, and the Pomfret Seniors met with Jim Rivers, Jamie Rabbitt, and Betty Morin at the Grange Hall. The grant should be released soon. Some people have shown interest in donations.

III. New Business

1. Update of Appointments: J. Rivers moved to re-appoint the following for a term of 11/20/07 thru 11/19/09 - Tree Warden; Maureen Nicholson, Town Counsel; Ed Higgins, Fire Marshall; Don Burton, Jr., Burning Official; Don Burton, Jr., Assistant Fire Marshall; Adam Scheuritzel, Historian; Walter Hinchman, Building Official; Lee Post. T. McNally seconded. D. Smutnick stated he has had trouble in the past reaching M. Nicholson and would like to review some names. J. Rivers amended motion to exclude Maureen Nicholson, Tree Warden. D. Smutnick seconded amendment. All in favor. J. Rivers made a motion to appoint the following to the Recreation Commission, noting there are no terms but are at the pleasure of the Board of Selectmen: Sean Brennen, (new member), reappointments: Larry Gregoire, Muriel Murakovich, Heather Kruzel, Steven Kolig, David Kaven port, Beverly Champany, Kathy Hess, Jill Corey. T. McNally seconded. All in favor. T. McNally moved to reappoint Wayne Morin as Emergency Manager for a term of 11/20/07 thru 11/19/09. J. Rivers seconded. All in favor. T. McNally moved to appoint David Patenaude to two-year term open for Library Director, running to 11/19/09. J. Rivers seconded. All in favor. Inland Wetlands: J. Rivers made a motion to reappoint Joe Stoddard, Paul Safin, and Joseph Travinski for term from Jan. 2, 2008 thru January 1, 2012. J. Rivers stated that term was not specified when Nancy McMerrian was appointed and he moved to clarify that term to run 10/10/06 thru 10/09/09. T. McNally seconded. All in favor. J. Rivers stated that when Jim Rawley was appointed as a regular member in August that an alternate spot was left open and he was recommending Jim Gould for that spot with a term of 12/03/07 thru 12/02/10. T. McNally seconded. D. Smutnick stated he would like to review some other names. J. Rivers withdrew motion. This appointment to be reviewed again at the next meeting. J. Rivers stated that Katarina Rutkowski's appointment ended in April, 2007. He moved that John Bergendahl be appointed to fill that alternates position. T. McNally seconded. Discussion. D. Smutnick would like to review qualifications. Motion withdrawn. Appointment to be reviewed again at the next meeting. J. Rivers stated these appointments run thru the first of year and would like to clarify terms of the following Conservation Commission members: Four year terms, thru January, 2011: Ann Hennen, Cheryl Champ, Lisette Rimer, Cynthia Kirby, Elizabeth Cartier. Three year terms, thru January, 2010: Carol Buttner, James Robbins, William Lewis, Walter McGinn, and Murray Buttner filling a three year term that ends in 2011. J. Rivers recommended Lee Grossman to fill resignation of Jeanette Sullivan. Ann Hennen stated she would prefer to move alternate Pam Cartledge to the regular member seat and perhaps appoint Lee to fill the alternate spot. Discussion. Tabled to next meeting. J. Rivers stated he would also like to recommend Robert Lussier to Conservation Commission. Discussion. D. Smutnick stated he would like to review other names. Tabled to next meeting.

IV. Other Business

1. Corn Maze – This idea was brought forth to do at the Recreation Park to raise money for the eighth grade D.C. trip. The farmer will need to be notified soon if this goes forward. The project would also be subject to availability of Recreation people and eighth graders to oversee.

1. General Discussion - None

2. 2008 Meeting and Holiday Schedule – J. Rivers proposed a change in the Town Hall hours to noon to 7:30 PM on Wednesday's and being opened at Fridays from 8:30 to noon. T. McNally moved to try new hours for three months and then review. New hours to begin on January 1, 2008. D. Smutnick seconded. All in favor. Discussion of 2008 Meeting List. T. McNally moved to approve 2008 Schedule as presented. J. Rivers seconded. All in favor. Holiday schedule will be modified to reflect Fridays. T. McNally moved to approve holiday schedule as presented with an amendment to add the Fourth of July, Good Friday, and day after Thanksgiving Fridays to holiday list. J. Rivers seconded. All in favor.

V. Tax Refunds/Abatements: Laura Simmons, O/P, \$11.74; Jack Reeves, COC, \$62.63 – T. McNally moved to approve. D. Smutnick seconded. All in favor.

VI. Pistol Permits: None

VII. Approval to Pay Bills: Bills scheduled to be paid on 12/03/07. J. Rivers read check numbers to be paid: 24574-24605; 24900; 24825; 24950; 24160-24170; totaling \$53,259.58 and check numbers 24606-24610 totaling \$3,405.00. T. McNally moved to approve as presented. D. Smutnick seconded. All in favor.

VIII. Citizen's Comments – Rick Hall stated perhaps some proceeds from the Corn Maze could go to the Open Space Acquisition Fund. Richard Dunn asked about the patch job done on Covell Road. Covell Road will be in next year's budget. Katarina Rutkowski stated the Board might want to consider accepting comments from outside chairpersons during their meetings. Ford Fay asked about the Assessor appointment.

IX. Adjournment – T. McNally moved to adjourn. D. Smutnick seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved_____