



## TOWN OF POMFRET ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The mission of the Pomfret Conservation Commission is to inventory and conserve Pomfret's natural resources and open spaces and to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Selectmen and other municipal agencies. In fiscal year 2011-2012, the Conservation Commission met our mission through a number of initiatives.

Our Commission promoted conservation education and information at our booth for Positively Pomfret Day in September 2011. Led by former Chair Woman Cheryl Kapelner-Champ, our booth provided opportunities for town children to create "potato people" with a theme of conservation from various craft materials and real potatoes.

Conservation Commission members, in conjunction with the First Selectman, gave a presentation on the economic benefits of open space protection at the December 2011 special town meeting to help inform the public in deciding to purchase the development rights for a number of town properties comprising a total of 412.71 acres. These included the Terricciano, Flath, Carter, and Johnson properties. In addition, the Town purchased the Blackmore property, which is adjacent to a number of already protected properties, and finalized the purchase of development rights for the Tyrone Farm/MacLaren property. These transactions furthered the town's goal of preserving open space for future generations of Pomfret residents.

In March 2012, The Commission met with Town Planner James Rabbitt to discuss the issues involving preservation of stone walls adjacent to Town roads and to investigate the possibility of drafting an ordinance on stone wall preservation for review by the Town.

At our June 2012 meeting, the Lois Orswell Conservation Award was given to Paul Slevinsky, for his Eagle Scout project to construct a path from Town Hall to access the Airline Trail. Mr. Slevinsky's work provided a needed access point to the Airline Trail, furthering recreational use of Pomfret's trail systems and providing an example to Pomfret youth of hard work and public service.

The Conservation Commission worked on a number of initiatives important to town residents, including the protection of stone walls located adjacent to town owned roads, protection of the Town aquifer located on the Murdock property, the results of the Mashamoquet Watershed Data Study, further clean up of the Airline Trail adjacent to the Putnam town line, and use of the Idlewilde/Steakums/Chef Fresh building on Searles Road.



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Current Conservation Commission members are: William A. Lewis, Chairman; Walter P. McGinn, Vice Chairman; Pamela Cartledge, Secretary; Cheryl Kapelner-Champ; Elizabeth L. Cartier; Ann B. Hennen; Rich Telford, Marcia S. Lewis; and Betty Morin, clerk. We would also like to thank former Commission member James Robbins for his efforts in putting together the open space presentations at Town Meetings for the past decade, and for his public speaking skills during these meetings to help inform Townspeople of the benefits of open space preservation.

In 2013, the Conservation Commission will meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Pomfret Old Town House in January, March, May, June, September, and November. Additional meetings may be called at the request of the Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'William A. Lewis'.

William A. Lewis  
Chairman, Conservation Commission