

**TOWN OF POMFRET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2013 7:00 PM
POMFRET OLD TOWN HOUSE
(These minutes have not been approved)**

Members present: William Lewis, Chairman; Pamela Cartledge, Secretary; Walter McGinn, Vice Chairman, Richard Telford. Ann Hennen, Elizabeth Cartier, Cheryl Kapelner-Champ and Marcia Lewis. Members absent: None.

- I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** William Lewis, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Seat Alternate as needed.** None.
- III. Items to be added to the Agenda –** None.
- IV. Approve Minutes of September 13, 2012, October 11, 2012 and November 29, 2012 -** McGinn made the motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2012, October 11, 2012 and November 29, 2012 as presented. Cartledge seconded. Approved unanimously.
- V. Citizen Participation –** Albert Washburn was present to discuss the McLaughlin property as open space. This will be added to the agenda.
- VI. Unfinished Business –**
 - a. Stonewall ordinance –** James Rabbit will be at our meeting with a document draft for review, discussion and possible approval. Rabbitt was present and went through the document that was presented. Each section was explained and questions were asked and answered. Rabbitt presented a well-written document for the Commission's consideration.
 - b. Lois Orswell Award 10th year anniversary –** any ideas? We will have a guest speaker and will do our celebration of 10 years of the Lois Orswell Award with displays, etc. The date of the Lois Orswell Award will be May 9, 2013. We will have a Special meeting on April 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at the Old Town House.

- c. Aquifer protection – Murdock property boring.** Lewis reported that an RFP was done. The project is moving forward slowly.
- d. Regional agricultural processing facility – Steak-Ums property.** Lewis reported that the grant application has been made.

VII. New Business

- a. Fracking for Natural Gas in Connecticut** – Telford reported that this area does not have the geology for it. We need to understand the issues and implications. We need to read articles about it. The process is complicated and you use chemicals that can cause contamination.
- b. Wood burning Furnaces** – Telford presented a document for review about wood burning furnaces. There was discussion about the DEEP regulations for these units, the height of the chimneys, the towns that ban their use, Phase 2 unit is better for the air quality particulates, set backs, closeness to schools, public buildings, Public Health issues, EPA is regulating their use, Building Inspector has authority furnaces.
- c. Albert Washburn – McLaughlin Property and Open Space** – Washburn stated that there is an issue with a stonewall being covered up which was a property line. There are trees at risk because of the grading. There is construction equipment on the property with other vehicles in the yard. He asked the commission to look into the problem at the advisory level.

VIII. Report of other town committees, subcommittees and workshops – The razzle dazzle parade was good. Cartier reported that the school is working on safety issues, we are in budget season, the school has 75 –80% of its budget as mandated, WA tuition is up, cutting staff, administration, a decreasing school population, and no new special ed.

IX. Communication and Mail – Gone through.

X. Citizen Participation – None.

XI. Things to remember – Charter Oak Garden at the Town Hall. Trash pick up at Canoe Launch and bring canned (or boxed) food items to the Town Hall for the Food Pantry.

XII. Adjournment – McGinn motioned to adjourn. Marcia Lewis seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk