

**TOWN OF POMFRET  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2015 7:00 PM  
POMFRET OLD TOWN HOUSE  
(These minutes have not been approved)**

Members present: William Lewis, Chairman, Pam Cartledge, Secretary, Walter McGinn, Liz Cartier, Marcia Lewis and Mary Eliza Kimball. Members absent: Richard Telford, Vice Chairman and Cheryl Kapelner-Champ.

- I. **Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** William Lewis opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He announced that he was resigning as Chairman of the Conservation Commission but will stay on as a member of the commission. Marcia Lewis made the motion to have Walter run the meeting. Bill Lewis seconded. Unanimously approved.
- II. **Seat Alternate as needed – None.**
- III. **Items to be added to the Agenda –** The resignation of William Lewis letter and the Budget.
- IV. **Approve Minutes of August 13, 2015 –** Cartledge made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kimball seconded. Marcia Lewis abstained. Approved with one abstention.
- V. **Citizen Participation – None.**
- VI. **Unfinished Business – None.**
  - a. **P&Z Plan of Conservation & Development –** There are no new developments. The commission has worked with the P&Z on coordinating the maps. The Conservation Commission's Conservation Plan revision is due in 2018.
- VII. **New Business –**
  - a. **Plans for Positively Pomfret Day Fundraiser –** McGinn opened the discussion of this topic. Kimball thought we were doing pizza. Cartier stated that in the past the commission has lost money on calendars, t-shirts and the Pomfret Bags. Maureen Nicholson arrived to the meeting. Nicholson stated that she checked with the Town Clerk and we have lost money. We had to get money back from it. Do we have a plan for our whole commission at PPD? Cartledge asked how do we pay for the pizza. Marcia Lewis thought that since we are a commission we need to have things approved. Fundraising is

to be done, not by the commission but by individual members on their own. We have a tent we can borrow from Walter to use at PPD. There was discussion about PPD. Cartledge asked do we participate at all. Nicholson stated we could be a presence for Conservation trail maps, purchase land development right, recruiting and educating. Wyndham Land Trust bought the Valentine property adjacent to the rec park. There is \$480,000 in accounts for the purchase of land. The Selectmen are working on other purchases. Kimball asked where the land is. Nicholson stated she could not say as it abuts state land. The commission has some t-shirts and about 200 bags they can give away. McGinn asked if we had the people who want to do this. Cartledge volunteered part of the day. Kimball stated 10-4 is available. Cartledge made the motion to be at PPD to be a presence to hand out promotional material pending having enough help to do it. Cartier seconded. Approved unanimously. Cartledge volunteered to coordinate times with people to be present at PPD. Kapelner- Champ sent the following written submission – I am a bit confused regarding what our commission plans on doing for PPD. I certainly understand the disapproval of our tax monies being used for “food service training”. I decided to attend the food training session with Mary Eliza last week at the Woodstock Fair Grounds. We each are now certified for this, which we did as a personal out of pocket expense. The feeling is the Pomfret Conservation Commission voted in this form of fundraising for our decision to fund an Audubon Camp Scholarship for a child in Pomfret. When the motion was brought up, and we voted this in, in all honest7 I felt it was one of the best decisions we made yet as a Commission. Our decision to help foster the education of a child to the wonders and importance of nature felt like a natural evolution of what it is we do. Spending that hot summer evening at the fairgrounds and personally absorbing the cost for the training felt like additional affirmation of our vote for the Scholarship. Nicholson read our mission statement for the record. She stated that when she wanted to fund the scholarship from the Rec Commission to the Town Attorney he said no. The scholarship has not been applied for. The Rec Department makes money for the Town. They do programs and make a profit and turn it back into the Town. We should not use tax dollars to fund a scholarship and using town money for T-shirts did not make money.

- b. **Plans for Trails Weekend** – The commission needs to do registration for walks and Walktober in January so our event can be placed on a brochure calendar.

**c. What's next for Fracking?** McGinn stated that there would be no action until Kapelner-Champ is back. Kimball stated that fracking is an issue. Nicholson acknowledged that the gas line is expanding. They noticed abutters about the third line coming through the south end of town. Kapelner- Champ sent the following - We all learned a great deal from our speakers during this year's June evening of the Lois Orswell Award. That night we learned about the fracked wastewater, and the toxic elements the water becomes contaminated with. Connecticut has a 3-year moratorium in place forbidding the transporting of fracked water. This autumn this moratorium will be down to 2 years. We were told that Connecticut towns throughout the state are taking action and are working towards holding referendums to have the transport of fracked water restricted from being transported through their towns in place in time for when the moratorium is lifted. I stopped in at the town hall today and requested the towns' regulations in hard copy in order to go forth with a referendum. All of this will be further discussed at our October meeting. This statement and the PPD stated were given in hand to each member of the commission.

**d. Budget-** A budget was handed to the members of the commission. There is \$900.00 available to the commission because in the past we did not use our budget. Nicholson stated that the P & Z draft is available and we should look up the draft.

Nicholson stated that she would like to work with the Conservation Commission about ideas of things to bring awareness of to the community. There is no Green Team. Street cleaning needs to be organized, people will come and do these things. The Pomfret Times, mailing information, bulky waste, many hundreds of pound of debris, water conservation and other news outlets. The Conservation Commission has a Plan of Conservation. Green Team, I don't know if there is interest in solar projects, the electric car charging station at Town Hall is there for tourists. A full charge takes 4-6 hours. Costs about \$1.80 to charge a car. There are 2 units in 3 years we need to put a charge on the use of the station. Eversource is becoming energy efficient with a 20% decrease for Town Hall. Cartier stated the Green Team was effective. Kimball asked where they were. Cartier stated that Woodstock has one. Nicholson stated that other towns want to sell us their energy. Produce methane, composting and selling it. People take their raw compost and they give them processed compost. She had handouts for the group to read. The canoe launch needs to be weed whacked and trash removal. Lois Broonage is now doing kiosk. Kimball stated that access to the trails is not clearly

marked and there is not good parking. Parking is dangerous. Kimball stated that the CT park association through GPS has park and trail information. Nicholson offered to build out our page on the Website. Latest map of Open Space is being updated. Kimball stated that the new trails on Jericho Road, Wolf Den, Baker Hollow are not marked and no signs. McGinn stated that he had trail markers. Nicholson stated she wanted to promote public access to trails. McGinn asked how many site do we have.

Kimball asked about the Stonewall Ordinance as to where it stands. Nicholson she thought it was brought up 4 –5 years ago when Jamie Rabbitt was here. It never went further because of the private property issue. The subject comes up in P & Z. There was no teeth to put in the Ordinance. I am the tree warden, which does only town land and I can't control private trees. Some towns give a tax incentive. We cannot pay them enough if they want to sell their stonewalls. I never say the one they where they talked about town land. I only saw the one for private land. I never saw the final draft. Right to Farm Ordinance supports Farms. Stonewall are stolen. Kimball asked what is the status of the stonewall Ordinance. Bill Lewis stated that no one wanted to provide enforcement. Nicholson to ask James Rabbitt where the Stonewall Ordinance is.

**VIII. Report of other town committees, subcommittees, & workshops – None.**

**IX. Communication and Mail –** There was not mail to present.

**X. Citizen Participation – None.**

**XI. Things to remember –** Airline Trail clean up, Abington Property, Chef Fresh development, stonewall ordinance, fracking ordinance, trails walk schedule in January, fundraising for scholarships, and brochure for Conservation Commission.

The commission members thanked Bill Lewis for his many years as the Chairman.

**XII. Adjournment –** Bill Lewis made the motion to adjourn. McGinn seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk