

**TOWN OF POMFRET  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
MEETING OF March 10, 2016 7:00 PM  
POMFRET SENIOR CENTER**

Members present: Pam Cartledge (Chair) Liz Cartier, Cheryl Kapelner-Champ, Walter McGinn, Mary Eliza Kimball, Richard Telford (Vice Chairman), Jorge Martinez (First Selectman's Representative).

Members absent: Marcia Lewis, William Lewis.

**I. Call to order at 7:03 PM**

**II. Seat Alternate as needed – none needed.**

**III. Items to be added to the Agenda – none.**

**IV. Approve Minutes of February 22, 2016**

Liz corrects Section IX to read: "Liz reports budget preparations underway. 0.25% ~~2.5%~~ school increase. 0% town increase."

**MOTION:** "I move that we accept the minutes of February 11, 2016 as amended."

Maker: Pam. Second: Liz. Approved unanimously.

**V. Citizens Participation – None.**

**VI. Selectman's Liaison - Jorge Martinez represented Mr. Baldwin**

MOU with Eastern Connecticut Conservation District approved by selectmen and signed.

Selectman Baldwin requests 4/12 Workshop notice be on website, Pomfret Times and Woodstock Villager.

Jean Pillo requests comments on flyer by 3/17 to [jeanpillo@conservect.org](mailto:jeanpillo@conservect.org).

Press release from Connecticut Department of Public Health notes Groundwater Awareness Week (3/6-3/12).

**VII. Unfinished Business**

a. P&Z plan- No action. Pam will attempt to contact Mr. Hinchman.

b. CT Trails Weekend- Deadline approaching for participation in CT Trails Weekend. Cemetery Tour suggested for fall.

Audubon Land (at old Audubon building), Baker Hollow or Airline Trail are possibilities.

Committee selects Audubon Land. Test walk planned in April. Pam will register walk and contact Audubon for permission.

c. Stonewall Ordinance- Discussion of texts. Multiple versions exist. Defer discussion to allow synthesizing various versions.

**MOTION:** "Table discussion of ordinance until next meeting with intent of making final revisions to pass on to other commissions for purposes of review and feedback." Maker: Rich. Second: Mary Eliza. Approved unanimously.

d. MOU between Town of Pomfret and Eastern CT Conservation District. Septic system replacement- See section VI.

**VIII. New Business**

a. Cheryl requests town ordinance banning styrofoam containers.

- b. Spring Cleanup- No cleanup organized this year. Recruit local students. Jorge will contact Pomfret School for volunteers. Liz will contact Boy Scouts.

**IX. Reports of other town committees, subcommittees and workshops**

Budgets go to Finance Board for review Monday. Schedule of meetings in Pomfret Times.  
Fund balance is 10% of spending.

**X. Communications and Mail- None**

**XI. Citizens Participation – None.**

**XII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** “Motion to adjourn”. Maker: Liz. Approved unanimously at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter McGinn , Clerk *pro tem*

# News



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 7, 2016

**Connecticut Department of Public Health**  
Maura Downes, Director of Communications  
860-509-7270

## ***CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH RECOGNIZES NATIONAL GROUNDWATER AWARENESS WEEK: MARCH 6-12***

**HARTFORD** – In conjunction with National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 6-12, 2016, the Department of Public Health asks Connecticut residents with a private well to take some time to locate their well, inspect it for structural problems, elevate surrounding land around the well to protect from contamination, and most importantly, have the well water tested.

Thousands of Connecticut residents rely on groundwater supplies every day. Approximately 23% of the state's population is served by their own private residential well.

Homeowners with their own private wells use groundwater every day for drinking, cooking, bathing, cleaning, agriculture, cooling and heating. Water plays an essential role in everyone's life but, many are not aware how much of their water comes from the ground. National Groundwater Awareness Week is an annual observance sponsored by the [National Ground Water Association](#) (NGWA) that stresses how important groundwater is to the health of all people and the environment.

For more information on what to look for when inspecting your well, what you should have your water tested for and how often to test, and common well contaminants and water treatment options, please check out the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health's Private Well Program website at: [www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells](http://www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells).

\*\*\*END\*\*\*

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE TOWN OF POMFRET, CT  
AND THE EASTERN CONNECTICUT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by and between the Town of Pomfret, CT, hereinafter referred to as POMFRET, and the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District hereinafter referred to as ECCD.

**A. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this MOU is to develop and expand a framework of cooperation between POMFRET and ECCD, regarding an US EPA Clean Water Act grant to supplement the cost of septic system replacements in Pomfret and Brooklyn, CT.

**B. ECCD SHALL:**

Prepare priority maps for properties in Pomfret and Brooklyn determined to have high and medium priorities for septic system upgrades along Mashamoquet, Abington and White Brooks in Pomfret and Brooklyn based on criteria agreed upon between CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, CT Department of Public Health and ECCD;

Contact the property owners to alert them of environmental and public health concerns regarding failing and/or non-compliant septic systems and the potential to get financial assistance for upgrading their septic systems;

Supply property owners with information regarding the Pomfret Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP) and potential funding assistance for income eligible residents in Pomfret;

Prepare outreach materials with input from the Northeast District Department of Health, the CT Department of Public Health, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the US EPA for distribution to area residents;

Coordinate a workshop for homeowners on how to maintain a septic system and signs that a system is failing or not code compliant with Section 19-13-B103 of the CT Public Health Code;

Coordinate with HRP and the Northeast District Department of Health to determine if the existing system on the property is in need of replacement due to a system failure or non-compliance with Section 19-13-B103 of the CT Public Health Code;

Provide a rebate of \$2000.00 to any property owners within the identified priority areas that voluntarily upgrades their septic system to a system compliant with Section 19-13-B103 of the CT Public Health Code standards regardless of whether they meet the criteria for financial assistance through other programs.

C: Pomfret SHALL:

Continue to participate in the HRP;

Be provided an opportunity to review outreach materials prior to their distribution to the general public;

Assist with education and outreach for this project by coordinating meetings with ECCD and Pomfret staff and commission members;

Assist with education and outreach related to this project to the public through electronic and other outreach means;

Sponsor an education and outreach event on septic system maintenance and care by providing meeting space and/or publicity.

D: IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

1. This project agreement will run through a contract period ending September 30, 2018, or until funding available through the ECCD rebate program is exhausted.
2. An onsite wastewater disposal system must meet criteria as a failing system or non-compliance with Section 19-13-B103 of the CT Public Health Code in order to be eligible for funding assistance through HRP.
3. MODIFICATION. Modifications to this agreement shall be made by mutual consent of all parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by authorized officials, prior to any changes being performed.
4. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The principal contacts for this instrument are:

ECCD

Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Project Manager  
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District  
238 West Town Street  
Norwich, CT 06363  
(860) 928-4948

Pomfret

Craig Baldwin, First Selectman  
Town of Pomfret  
5 Haven Road  
Pomfret Center, CT 06259

5. COMPLIANCE. The parties agree to be bound by applicable state and federal rules governing Equal Employment Opportunity, Non-Discrimination and Immigration.
6. COMMENCEMENT. This agreement is executed as of the date of last signature.
7. LIABILITIES. It is understood that no party to this Memorandum of Understanding is the agent of any other, nor liable for the wrongful acts or negligence of any other. Each party shall be responsible for its negligent acts or omissions and those of its officers, employees, agents or students (if applicable), howsoever caused, to the extent allowed by their respective state laws.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last written date below:

For The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Mullins, Executive Director  
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

For the Town of Pomfret,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Baldwin, First Selectman  
Town of Pomfret, CT

January 6, 2016

Craig Baldwin, First Selectman  
Town of Pomfret  
P.O. Box 286  
5 Haven Rd.  
Pomfret Ctr., CT 06259-0286



Dear Mr. Baldwin:

***Walktober*** was spectacular this year! Glorious weather and fall foliage, combined with 200+ walks, talks, bikes, paddles, and events, brought more than 60,000 people out and about in our communities. We hope that you and your family were among those who were able to explore ***Walktober*** in The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor this past year.

We have already begun planning for ***Walktober 2016***, and we are writing to ask for your town's support in two important ways.

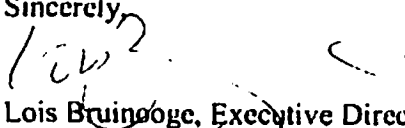
**First**, as you begin your annual budget deliberations, we hope you will consider sponsoring ***Walktober 2016***. We rely on the support of our sponsors to advertise, compile, produce and distribute more than 20,000 copies of the brochure, with many more viewed online. While most of our walk participants are from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, every year participants from across the country and beyond visit the area to enjoy a walk during the fall in New England. ***Walktober 2016*** will bring tourism dollars to your town.

We understand that you may not be able to make a contribution until the new town budget year starts in July. However, it would be helpful to know if your town will be a sponsor so that we may publicize your contribution when the brochure goes to print in June. We have enclosed a sponsorship pledge card for your use.

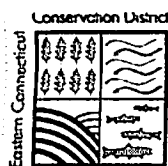
**Second**, we ask that you consider increasing your town's participation by encouraging and planning activities that showcase your history, legends, open spaces, wildlife, water resources, forestry, farms, and recreational opportunities. You'll note in the enclosed 2015 brochure that Norwich took home the top prize this year, with almost 40 different events! Be inspired and encourage your town boards and staff to begin planning now. We have enclosed a 2016 registration form for everyone to use.

Thank you in advance for your support of ***Walktober 2016!***

Sincerely,

  
Lois Bruinoge, Executive Director

  
Marcy Dawley, Walktober Coordinator



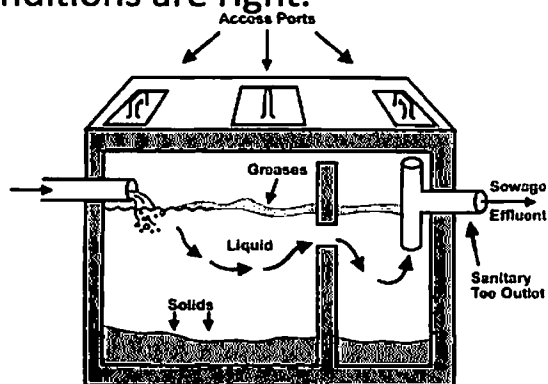
# Living Responsibly with a Septic Tank Homeowner Record-Keeping Folder

## What is a Septic System?

A septic system is a means to recycle household wastewater back into the natural environment. Modern systems include a tank, a junction box and a leaching field. In some cases, a pump is also needed.

## How A Septic Tank Works

1. Wastewater from your toilet, sink, shower, dishwasher or washing machine drains through your household sewer pipe to the septic tank.
2. Solids lighter than water float to the top of the tank and form a scum layer (fats, oils, hair, soap).
3. Solids heavier than water sink to the bottom of the tank where natural bacteria in the tank breaks them down to form a sludge layer.
4. The liquid waste in between those layers leave the tank to the leaching field, where most contaminants are removed by natural processes if conditions are right.



Source: CDC Healthy Housing Reference Manual

Some items should never be flushed down a toilet or washed down the drain because they may clog the system or kill the microbes that break down organic waste:

## Things that clog your system:

- Baby wipes/adult wet wipes
- Cat litter
- Feminine hygiene products
- Diapers
- Plastic (including tampon applicators)
- Condoms
- Coffee grounds
- Tissue and/or paper towels
- Cigarette butts
- Fats or oils
- Anything non-biodegradable

## Microbe killers:

- Medication
- Solvents
- Paint
- Poisons

Many commercial products are advertised as “flushable” but that does not mean they are septic safe. Please only flush septic safe toilet paper. Other hygiene products should be disposed of in the trash.



This project was funded in part by a US EPA Clean Water Act § 319 Non Point Source Grant through the CT DEEP.





Your septic system is an important part of your home. With proper care and maintenance, it will protect your family's health and the investment in your home for many years.

## Why is it important to take care of the leaching field?

Your leaching field is where most of the water treatment takes place using natural processes. The grass planted over a leaching field helps to remove excess water and nutrients. Harmful bacteria die in this underground environment.

- Do not park or drive over your septic system. This will compact the soil and possibly break the pipes under the surface.
- Do not plant trees or water-thirsty plants near your leaching field. The roots may grow into the pipes and clog the system.
- Do not place sheds, swimming pools or other structures over your septic system.
- Direct all water discharges (sump pumps, roof gutters, etc.) away from the leaching field to avoid flooding the system.
- Do not graze livestock over it.

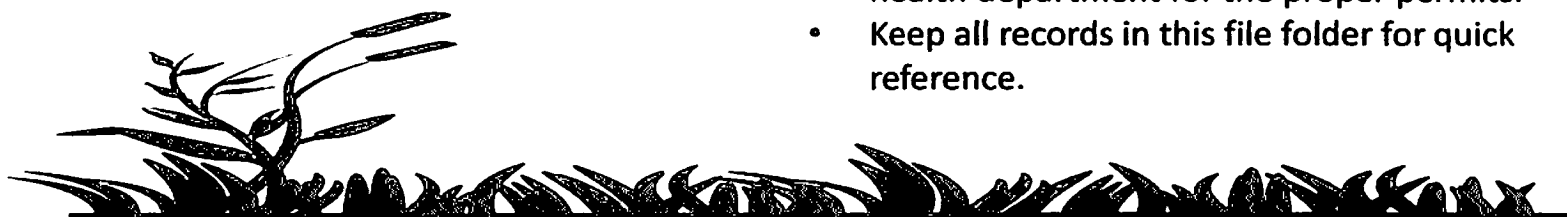
The average septic system should be pumped every 3 – 5 years. More frequent pumping may be required if you routinely use a garbage disposal, have a large family or an undersized tank.

## Common causes of septic system failure

- Failing to pump the system routinely.
  - Scum and/or sludge can clog leaching field.
- Soil compaction over the leaching field.
- Tree roots growing into the piping of the leaching field.
- Overloading your septic system with water all at once.
  - Stagger the use of high volume appliances (shower, dishwasher, washing machine) so that water in the leaching field can drain between uses.
  - Install water conserving fixtures in bathrooms and kitchens.
  - Redirect stormwater runoff away from the septic tank and leaching field.

It is a good idea to have your septic system inspected about every two years. Hire a professional do the inspection. Once open, the tank will release dangerous fumes.

- The tank should be inspected for leaks and the depth of the scum and sludge layers.
- If the scum is within 6" of the T-shaped tank outlet, or the sludge layer is within 12" of the outlet, the tank needs to be pumped.
- When the inspection is completed, it is important to properly reinstall the lid and secondary safety lid.
- If a repair to your system is recommended, address this quickly. Contact your local health department for the proper permits.
- Keep all records in this file folder for quick reference.



If your grass is greener over your septic tank, then you may already have a problem.

[illegible]

- Water drains slowly throughout the house's plumbing system. Call a plumber first to make sure the problem isn't a clogged waste pipe within your house.
- Sewage backs up into the house, especially on the lower floors.
- A sewage breakout appears over the septic tank or leaching field.
- Soggy soil/lush grass over the drainage area accompanied by a sewage smell.
- After the tank is pumped, water flows back into the tank from the leaching field.
- A water test shows your groundwater well is contaminated with bacteria and/or nutrients associated with human waste.

**Your Septic System Pumper**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DO** get your system pumped every 3-5 years and record the date on the chart to the left.

**DO** get your pumper to inspect your system and provide you with a report to keep in this file.

**DO** practice water conservation and install low-flow plumbing fixtures.

**DO** know the location of your tank and leaching field and maintain the area with a mowed, grassy cover.

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**DON'T** park or drive over any of the system components.

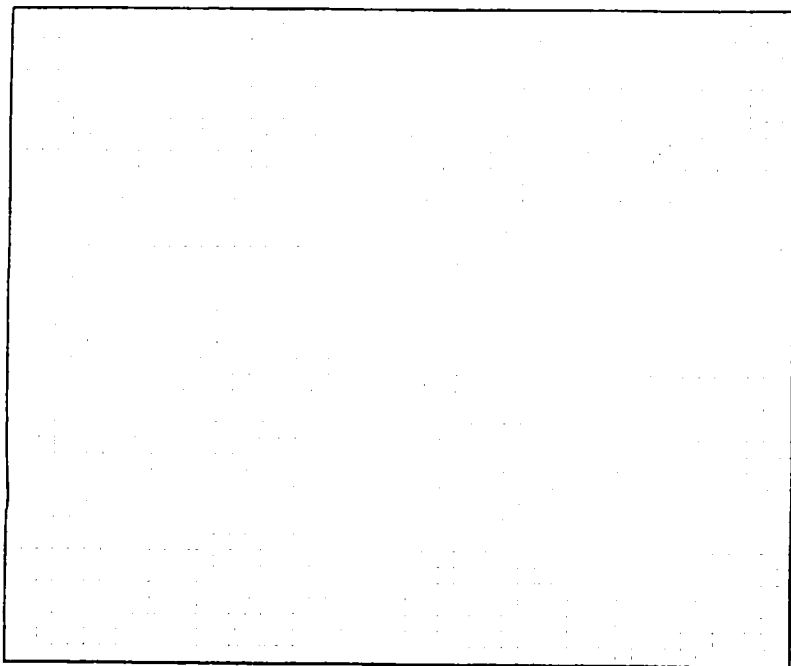
**DON'T** clog your system with fats and oils.

**DON'T** poison your system with solvents and medications that kill microorganisms needed to break down waste..

**DON'T** use your septic system as a trash can by dumping non-biodegradables down your toilet or drains.

**DON'T** make or allow repairs to your septic system without obtaining the required health department *permit*.

## Septic System Locator Diagram



If you don't have a drawing of your septic system to place in this file, you should sketch a diagram in the space above showing the relative location of your septic system to your house. If you have questions about the location of your septic system, contact your local health department.

### Your Septic System Installer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Installation: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your tank properly covered?  
In Connecticut, beginning on January 1, 2015, a secondary safety lid or device is required for all septic tanks. This device can help prevent a person from falling into a septic tank when the riser cover accidentally fails or gets dislodged.

Where can I get more information on the location of my septic system?

1. Your municipal land use office may have drawings of your house lot showing the location of your septic system.
2. Your local health department may have records of previous replacement or repair permits issued at your address.
3. Your local septic tank pumping company may have information on systems they have serviced.

### Your Local Health Department

Advice about commercial septic tank additives:

The use of additives to help maintain a septic system is not recommended by the CT Department of Public Health. Additives do not extend the amount of time required between septic tank pumping.

Additional Resources can be found at:

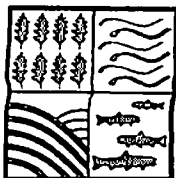
EPA SepticSmart


<http://www.epa.gov/septicSMART>

CT DPH

[www.ct.gov/dph/subsurfacesewage](http://www.ct.gov/dph/subsurfacesewage)

Conservation District



Find us on 

238 West Town Street  
Norwich, CT 06360

860-887-4163, ext. 400

<http://www.ConserveCT.org/Eastern>



The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Inc. (ECCD) is a not-for-profit natural resource conservation organization. ECCD offers technical and educational services to the towns of eastern Connecticut. ECCD assists citizens and towns in making sound natural resource decisions, and we promote sustainable use of natural resources. We develop programs that solve natural resource problems and we provide educational opportunities to the public about the interrelationship between human activities and the natural environment.

# THE LAST GREEN VALLEY'S 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WALKTOBER 2016 PROPOSAL

**Deadline May 1, 2016**

Mail to: P.O. Box 29/203 B Main Street, Danielson, CT 06239

Email to: [marcy@tlgv.org](mailto:marcy@tlgv.org)

Phone: (860) 774-3300 Fax: (860) 774-8543

1) Name of experience \_\_\_\_\_

2) Please check one: ☐ Walk ☐ Horse ☐ Bike ☐ Paddle ☐ Event

3) Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Date 2/Time (optional-if you want to do this same walk a 2<sup>nd</sup> date/time) \_\_\_\_\_

Rain date/Time (optional-if you want to offer a rain date if original is canceled due to rain) \_\_\_\_\_

4) Sponsoring Org. (required) \_\_\_\_\_ 4b) Phone # for brochure (required) \_\_\_\_\_

5) Directions (street address) \_\_\_\_\_

6) Describe what participants will see and do (50 words or less):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 7) More Details/Key(s):

Is pre-registration required? \_\_\_\_\_ How/whom? \_\_\_\_\_ Duration time of exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Miles \_\_\_\_\_

Is there an admission charge? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how much? \_\_\_\_\_ Event website \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose one: ☐ Difficult ☐ Moderate ☐ Easy (required)

Please check all that apply to your experience: ☐ Restrooms near ☐ Wheelchair access ☐ Dogs, leashed ☐ Participants over age 12 only  
☐ Especially for families with children ☐ Kayak/canoe, pfd ☐ Bike, helmet ☐ Horse, helmet ☐ Participants over age 21 only

Primary Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Back-up Leader (required): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**8) I verify that I ☐ or ☐ my organization is a member of TLGV. I will phone in the total number of participants and send in registration sheets. I agree to provide all necessary back-up, assistance and other necessities to make my Walktober experience successful. I have obtained & included written permission from the landowner if my organization does not own the private property. Note that TLGV will edit descriptions as necessary for clarity, consistency and interest. I understand these requirements and responsibilities and agree to participate in Walktober 2016**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All submissions will receive a return email. Please call 860-774-3300 if you don't hear back within a week.**

**Contact Marcy at 860-774-3300 or [marcy@tlgv.org](mailto:marcy@tlgv.org) with any questions. Thank you!**