

**TOWN OF POMFRET  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2012 7:00 PM  
POMFRET OLD TOWN HOUSE  
(These minutes have not been approved)**

Members present: William Lewis, Chairman; Pamela Cartledge, Secretary; Ann Hennen, Elizabeth Cartier and Marcia Lewis, Alternate. Members absent: Walter McGinn, Vice Chairman; Cheryl Kapelner-Champ.

- I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m.** William Lewis, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- II. Seat Alternate as needed.** Marcia Lewis was seated.
- III. Items to be added to the Agenda – None.**
- IV. Approve Minutes of December 8, 2011 and January 12, 2012 -** Cartledge made the motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2011 and January 12, 2012 as presented. Hennen seconded. Approved unanimously.
- V. Citizen Participation –** Bill Lewis introduced Richard Telford to the group. Richard gave a bio of himself.
- VI. Unfinished Business –**
  - a. Stonewall ordinance -** Lewis gave a brief history about the stonewall ordinance. James Rabbitt, Town Planner was present to discuss the ordinance process as it is used presently. It comes under excavation in the Planning and Zoning regulations. In zoning it comes under earthen removal. He spoke about how stones are removed and costs associated with the removal of stonewalls. It is an efficient process. As a stone is pulled off the wall it is “graded” and put in piles according to its characteristics. The grade decides the price of the stone. Interior stonewalls are being sold and we know nothing about it till its to late. Stone walls on the street are regulated and ownership is researched. The stonewalls are then regulated through permits for development. Zoning regulates the taking down and putting up. It’s a landscaping activity. The Selectmen calls P & Z or Rabbitt for permission. Most people do not know who owns the stonewalls in front of

their house. Most roads are a right of way, they are part of the Old Kings Highway and is owned by the residents of Pomfret. Rabbitt then discussed the general provision part of the proposed ordinance and stated that the building inspector is listed with no guidelines. Tree warden tags a tree for taking it down and there are guidelines to make the decision. There is notice. There needs to be criteria for wall removal. Develop base criteria, time frames as to apply, 30 day waiting period, standards for review – what would you do if the owner wants lawn to the road, and appeal process for denial. The recommendation is for a three person committee so the Selectmen and staff do not make the decision. In our general provision section A, B, C should be changed D is ok and E and F standard are what you need to do. Massage A – F. Rabbitt stated that there are penalties in DEEP or Army Corp. They have a set fine and a set fine for everyday there is no compliance. When it comes to theft that is a civil matter. He stated the rest of the ordinance was good. Hennen stated that we are grateful that Rabbitt came to help with this process. Lewis and Rabbitt will discuss the matter with Jim Rivers.

- b. Aquifer protection – Murdock property boring.** Lewis reported that an RFP was done.
- c. Lois Orswell Award Nominations Update -** There was discussion about the need for nominees. There were ideas expressed and the nominations need to be made. We encourage the Public to make nominations.
- d. Proposed Pomfret Agricultural Commission-** This issue is going to Town Meeting in 2 weeks.
- e. Pomfret 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Positively Pomfret Day –** Kapelner-Champ was not present this evening. An e-mail will be sent to her to ask her to come to the next meeting with some of her really great ideas.

## **VII. New Business**

- a. Airline Trail Grant –** Save for next meeting.

## **VIII. Report of other town committees, subcommittees and workshops**

– Liz reported on the Special Education audit being presented to the Board of Finance. Issues with the revamping the Pomfret Times. Board of appeals has an inside lot.

- IX. Communication and Mail** – Gone through. There was a discussion about the canoe launch kiosk. Morin will call CL&P to see if they would repair it and she will call NECOOG for new maps to be placed back into the kiosk.
- 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** – Hennen motioned to adjourn. Cartledge seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Morin, Clerk