

**TOWN OF POMFRET
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2012 – POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM**

In Attendance: First Selectman James Rivers, Selectmen Maureen Nicholson, Peter Mann. Also present – Approximately 50 citizens and interested parties.

Article 1: **To choose a Moderator for said meeting** – N. Gardner nominated Walter Hinchman as Moderator and Margie Huoppi seconded. No further discussion and Maureen Nicholson motioned to close nominations. N. Gardner seconded. All in favor to close nominations and all in favor of Walter Hinchman acting as Moderator.

Before moving to article 2 James Rivers gave a special recognition to three recent Eagle Scouts in town: Tony DeLuca, Paul Slevinski, and Sean Cunningham. Each were presented with Honorary Constable Badges and Letters.

Article 2: **To see if the Town will approve an Ordinance to establish a Senior Advocate Commission to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Selectmen and other municipal boards and commissions. The Senior Advocate Commission will also promote senior activities in the Town of Pomfret and make policy and operation recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Pomfret Senior Center and act as an advocate for all senior issues in Pomfret. A copy of said proposed Ordinance is available at the Office of the Pomfret Town Clerk** – Walt Hinchman read Article 2 into the record. Article 2 moved by Peter Mann and duly seconded. Sally Johnson asked about the difference between a Commission and a Committee. A Commission is by Ordinance. Woody Woodbridge asked if there will be any budgetary impact. There are no direct costs for this Commission and the Commission will hopefully monitor the Senior aspect of the budget. It should eliminate the Board of Selectmen as the only interface with the Senior Center. Sally Johnson asked if TEEG will be gone. They will continue to provide the current support. A Municipal Agent will hopefully also come from this group. Some further discussion regarding opening and closing the center and other details that the Commission will determine. A few comments regarding the size of the Commission. There were no further comments and Article 2 was put to vote and passed with a majority vote of ayes although there were a number of nays heard.

Article 3: **To see if the Town will approve an Ordinance to establish an Agricultural Commission to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Selectmen and other municipal boards and commissions. The commission will advocate for all agriculture before municipal boards, commissions, elected officials, non-farm residents, and outside organizations. It will foster public awareness of local agriculture and how it enhances and preserves the rural character of the Town. A copy of said proposed Ordinance is available at the Office of the Pomfret Town Clerk** – Walter Hinchman read Article 3 into the record. J. Folsom moved to approve Article 3 and T. McNally seconded with an effective date of April 16, 2012. K. Kristal asked if there would be any cost to the Town? There will be no direct cost. The 2012/2013 budget does reflect two thousand dollars for some start-up ‘seed’ money if needed. This will back out in following years. D. Morrissette asked if the Commission would have power over agriculture, could they dictate rules to farmers. That is not at all what the Commission would do, it would instead provide a voice to farmers to promote agriculture and offer suggestions to areas such as zoning. Article called to vote and Article 3 was approved with a unanimous vote of aye.

Article 4: **To do any other business proper to come before said meeting** – T. McNally moved to adjourn and motion was duly seconded. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Duly recorded _____
Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Attest: _____
Cheryl Grist, Town Clerk