

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Conservation Commission Meeting**  
Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Wally Smith at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Committee Members Present: Chair Smith, Bob Goodrich, Jane Johnson, Beverly Bernard, Steve Stepenuck and Mike Morrison.

**ABSENT**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Code Enforcement Officer Mike Jasmin

**MINUTES**

- Minutes of October 3, 2016 were considered. **Motion** by Goodrich to approve the Minutes of October 3, 2016 with change to the minutes by removing redundant sections on page 3. There was a second from Johnson. **Motion passed.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Public input** - Committee/Citizen Concerns – there was none
- **Water Protection Committee** - Activity – Bernard gave a summary of the previous meeting and she said that the meeting was very productive. Participants got to review other town ordinances and decided on details preferred by Swanzey. Madison will provide a first draft for members of the committee to review. Smith said it is the intention of the committee to meet with the Selectmen when the draft is ready and approved by the committee.
- **Swanzey Lake Property - Survey Results/Border resolution** – It was noted that surveyor John Bridges has been ill but some progress has been made according to Stepenuck who said Bridges has found more evidence of property pins. Stepenuck said Bridges needs to reconstruct the lines from the location of pins once he is on the mend.
- **Monitoring Report – Honey Hill** – Morrison said that he took a walk on the property. There was a discussion about a management plan for the property. Morrison described the difficulty in knowing how to access the trail to Honey Hill. He noted some trees are obstructing the beginning of the trail. He also noted that the old blue trail markers continuing past the LCHIP sign where the trail turns to the left should be removed. There was a discussion about the difficulty in knowing how to access the trail. The committee agreed to see who is responsible, whether the Open Space Committee or Conservation Commission. The members of the Commission agreed that the proper way to provide access by the public is to acquire a curb cut permit, putting in a culvert, and make an access on the Town right-of-way. Stepenuck and Bernard said they would speak to Lee Dunham about the costs associated with putting in a culvert and get a permit from the State for a curb cut. Morrison reported that the Commission has gotten permission from the land owner to do the monitoring.

- **Wetlands for Sale Carlton Bridge land and South Road land** - Open Space Committee questions; Conservation Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund; Conservation Fund. The committee discussed the questions that were provided by an Open Space Committee member and after consideration again asserted supporting a recommendation to the Selectmen for the purchase of the properties since it would fulfill two conservation purposes: riverbank and wetlands protection and aquifer recharge. It was also noted that the Selectmen did not address the same type of questions when the Town made the purchase of the West Swanzey Athletic Association property to turn into a park.
- **Response Concerns; "Right-to-Know", Conflict with meeting schedule** - Requests from Planning and Community Development to provide input after a monthly Conservation Commission meeting has occurred and attempting to provide input via email has caused a problem with regard to the Right-to-Know law since it appears that a discussion is going on. It was noted that it is difficult to get a special meeting together because of busy schedules. It was agreed that when Smith receives a request for input that the committee will respond at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Stepenuck said it is important to inform the appropriate parties who make such a request that the committee will discuss the request at the next meeting.
- **Trail maps on line - Info provided by Barbara Skuly** – The committee discussed the idea of placing our trail maps on the [www.TrailFinder.info](http://www.TrailFinder.info) website. We have Cresson Trail with GPS information that has been digitized but none of the others so far as known. The workshops were discussed. Johnson will find out when the workshops will be held. Stepenuck, Morrison, and Bernard are also interested in learning more. This item to stay on the agenda.
- **NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions - Annual Dues 1917** – There was a discussion about paying the annual dues for the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions and the services the NHACC provides. Smith will invite Barbara Richter to attend a meeting to help with something like a natural resource inventory. Morrison said he will be attending the annual meeting of the NHACC.

**Motion** was made by Stepenuck to pay the annual dues of \$\$363.00 for the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission, second by Morrison. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

- **Fish & Game Issue** - Morrison said he would like to support the delisting of pine marten as long as the animal will be managed following the North American Conservation Model. He also spoke about collaboration between sportsmen's group and what they have accomplished and said the NH Wildlife Coalition is trying to change the makeup of the Fish & Game department to promote their agenda.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Anti-Dumping Ordinance – Signage** – Morrison said there is still no sign since the sign maker has been unable to complete the task.
- **Utilizing Inmate Labor** - Memorandum of Understanding was reviewed. Mike Jasmin said that two men are working at Pine Street building, and they did a nice job cleaning it up, and will be

working on the rail trail. Insurance liability was discussed. Jasmin said that they have been bringing their own lunches and the Town has been providing water. Jasmin said the coordination of picking them up and dropping them off and finding someone to monitor them as well can be a burden. The Commission considered the possibility of such help for trail maintenance.

- **Expenditure Statement** - info – Smith passed out a statement of account expenditures.

#### **REPORTS**

- **Open Space Resignations** – these were briefly discussed.
- **Whitcomb Hall Donors** - Smith suggested a plaque for donors be placed on a wall for Whitcomb Hall
- **Airport Forest Management** meeting – Smith reported on the meeting.
- **Swanzy Lake Lowering** – Stepenuck asked about the lowering of the dam and Bernard explained that the Town is lowering the lake in order to fix a leak.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was a **motion** to adjourn by Johnson with a second from Goodrich. All were in favor. **Motion passed.** Adjournment occurred at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary