

Swanzy Conservation Commission

June 9, 2009 meeting minutes

Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission.

Review and approval of minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission.

ATTENDANCE Michael Day, Chair; Gary Colburn, Deb Crowder, Paul Daniello, Mike Morrison, Stephen Stepenuck. Alternates Jane Johnson (arrived at 7:10), Bob Goodrich.

Chairman Day called the meeting to order at 7:05.

GUEST: Theresa DiLuzio, Stewards of Mt Caesar Advisory Committee (7:05 - 7:20)

DiLuzio reported that the group has been discussing ATV riders' use of trails, and is considering a recommendation to post signs at seven to eight locations that state that ATV riders must obtain permission from the Town to ride on Mt Caesar trails. Stepenuck recommended including an RSA citation on the signs. Morrison said that mountain bikes also are responsible for damage to trails. DiLuzio said that the group will provide literature that promotes protection of wetlands.

DiLuzio reported that the group's application for a grant to finance costs of a gate and trail signs was not successful. She said the group seeks to install an inexpensive gate directly behind the Carpenter Home, and will seek to obtain a contribution of Town labor for installation of the proposed gate. DiLuzio said that the proposed gate would bear a sign stating that unauthorized vehicles are not allowed. She said that the group proposes to have signs made at the State prison.

DiLuzio asked the SCC to consider a contribution of approximately \$250 towards the cost of gate materials and signs, with the understanding that the Stewards of Mt Caesar Advisory Committee is meeting on June 15 and will develop an accurate breakdown of expected expenses.

SCC members agreed in their support of the project, and asked DiLuzio to return with confirmed prices. DiLuzio said that the Selectmen will hold a public hearing prior to installation of any gates and signs. Johnson said that the SCC should be more vocal and aggressive in getting the word out to citizens to use resources like the Mt Caesar trails, and not to destroy them.

Discussion of reports of related committees -- Day requested that, whenever possible, SCC members e-mail reports to the group prior to the meeting.

SWRPC – Morrison said that there has been no meeting since the May SCC meeting.

ARLAC – Stepenuck said that he was unable to attend the most recent ARLAC meeting, and reported meeting results from ARLAC minutes. SCC members discussed a hydroelectric dam proposed for the Ashuelot River in Keene. Stepenuck presented an overview of river monitoring results from May. Stepenuck said that he will forward the ARLAC meeting minutes and summaries of river monitoring results to SCC members. SCC members asked that he do so on a regular basis.

OSC – Crowder reported that the June OSC meeting included a celebration of the success of the *Swanzy Rural Character* film, and a discussion of possible projects to build on the excitement generated by the film.

Growing Our Own – Day said that there is no new information.

Stewards of Mt Caesar Advisory Committee – see **GUEST**

Planning Board zoning workgroup – Crowder reported that the group has conducted two meetings, with much of the conversation devoted to potential development of industrial parks. Crowder said that although the conversation has been useful, in her opinion the group should return to its initial mission – to determine how the Town might minimize impacts of economic development on Yale Forest. Crowder

said that workgroup participants appear to be in agreement in their opposition to “strip” commercial development in the vicinity of Yale Forest, and said that some participants have spoken in favor of exploring the possibility of industrial development in the vicinity of land off Route 10 that is adjacent to the Swanzey-Keene line.

SCC members discussed possible approaches, including consultation of the Master Plan, changes in zoning, various negotiations with Yale University, and purchase of a conservation easement (including a qualified appraisal of the value of the property). SCC members expressed support of Crowder’s intention to continue to advocate for conservation of Yale-Toumey Forest.

Day asked Crowder to forward minutes of the working group to SCC members to facilitate future discussions of the group’s progress. Crowder said that the next meeting of the workgroup will take place on Tuesday, June 23, beginning at 4:00.

Treasury Report

Day advised SCC members that payment for conservation camp has been made, and said that the SCC received no applications for a SCC scholarship.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bardwell Farm retail development (Tax Map 38 Lot 1 and Lot 1-2) Day reported receipt of correspondence from DES regarding the SCC letter. Members discussed proposed landscaping plans.

Homestead Dam removal permits submitted to DES DAY – Day reported no receipt of further information beyond the e-mail response (forwarded to SCC members) to SCC concerns regarding stream barbs.

NEW BUSINESS

Applications and permits: none received

Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting Noting that the meeting’s June 17, 2009 agenda items concern Swanzey Lake, SCC members discussed the Commission’s historic position of defending Swanzey Lake from the impacts of development, including advocacy for adhering to required setbacks. Crowder, Morrison and Day said that they intend to review the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection regulations, lake monitoring information, and other information in preparation for the ZBA meeting. Crowder reminded the group that ZBA members encourage the presence and participation of the SCC at ZBA hearings.

Projects

Mt. Cresson trail work SCC members determined to conduct the walk with trailwrights and Nikofoarakis on Monday, June 29 at 2:00. Day will contact Nikofoarakis. Morrison said that trailwrights will help build trails where desired by the town, and will train volunteers in constructing waterbars; group members agreed that Stewards of Mt Caesar Advisory Committee also may be interested in this help.

Let’s Go Fishing Morrison said that 31 children participated in the program at Trinity Lutheran Church. SCC members agreed to try to set up a program for July; equipment and instructors will be provided. Morrison said that he will follow up, and make necessary arrangements.

MINUTES

Proposed correction: ATTENDANCE Michael Day, Chair; Gary Colburn, Deb Crowder, ~~Paul Daniello~~, . . .

Excused absence: Paul Daniello

Motion by Crowder to approve, as corrected, the minutes of May 12, 2009. Second by Morrison. All in favor, with Daniello abstaining.

OTHER BUSINESS AS MIGHT ARISE

NH Lakes Association conference Johnson alerted SCC members to the upcoming conference, and said she will e-mail the informational flier to group members. Johnson said that she intends to attend.

Invasive plant workshop Stepenuck said he will e-mail to SCC members information on the workshop.

Hug a tree program Stepenuck recommended presenting the program to Swanzey Lake campers. Stepenuck said he will gather further information.

Controlled burn Morrison suggested that the SCC send a note to the Swanzey Fire Department in appreciation of firefighters' efforts to protect the maple trees during the recent burn exercise.

Vacancy for alternate position Members discussed filling the position that will be vacated by Goodrich.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Morrison. Second by Johnson. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Reck Barlow
Recording Secretary