

**SWANZEY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES
MAY 11, 2010**

[Note: Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Open Space Committee. Review and approval of minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.]

The May 11th meeting of the Swanzey Open Space Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Jeanne Thieme. Members present: Jeanne Thieme, Katherine Feist, Deb Crowder, Theresa DiLuzio, Robin Snow and Beverly Bernard. Town Planner Sara Carbonneau was also present.

1. Ashuelot River/Homestead Avenue Hike - DiLuzio reported that the hike on April 24th with Peter Bablowski (hydrogeologist) was very educational and enjoyable. Ways to protect this wonderful parcel of land continue to be explored.

2. Painting of Buck - David Bulger's painting of Buck was donated to Cutler School during an all-school assembly held on May 4th. Thieme reported that Bulger, Victoria Barlow and she were present for the occasion. Barlow's comments and the students' responses indicated that Buck had touched those present.

3. CCP Training - Thieme and Barlow presented a short program on May 9th, as part of the Monadnock Conservancy's training for those interested in conservation easements. Carbonneau stated that she and Barlow met with Pete Throop (of the MC) earlier in the day and reported that he is interested in expanding the time allotted for the presentation.

4. April 20th Easement Celebration - Carbonneau stated that approximately 80 people attended the easement celebration held in honor of the Johnson family, celebrating the Ridgehill Farm easement. Newest member Beverly Bernard willingly took on the task of writing thank you notes.

5. Planning Board Workgroup Update - Carbonneau stated that the Planning Board Workgroup last met on May 3rd. However, she was unable to be present. Crowder reported that the group talked about

allowing residential use within the district - primarily along Forest Avenue, but noted that no final decision had been made on this topic. Crowder also stated that Subcommittee was not particularly enthralled with retaining the renewable energy facilities provisions (currently contemplated as a use permitted by special exception). The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st at 4 p.m.

6. Tippin' Rock Farm Easement - Carbonneau and Feist met with Ryan Owens at the Monadnock Conservancy on Monday, May 10th, to discuss the targeted fundraising for the Tippin' Rock Farm easement. Feist explained the fund-raising strategy and time line. It is anticipated that the public portion of the fundraising campaign will kick off in early to mid July.

Members discussed the development of a brochure describing the Tippin' Rock Farm project. It is hoped that this brochure can be ready by mid-June so that it can be handed out to potential donors. The brochure would describe the property and the easement, include photos, as well information as to how to donate to the project. Snow stated that and her son would be interested in developing the brochure layout.

DiLuzio stated that she is meeting with the directors of the Swanzey Lake Association on May 22nd regarding the project. The poster (previously prepared by Dan Zeh) and written information (previously prepared by Deb Crowder) will be given to DiLuzio to share with the directors.

The OSC discussed the "ear-of-corn fundraising thermometer." Crowder's art students will assist in the design. It is anticipated that the thermometer will ready and installed in front of Town Hall (pending Board of Selectmen approval) by early to mid July.

Re: Fields Pond Grant - Dan Zeh is working on the grant application and hopes to have a draft by Monday, May 17th. Thieme noted that an important aspect of this grant is the connection between people and the land. It is hoped that photographs reflecting this connection can be supplied with the grant application. DiLuzio suggested that she may be able to arrange for some school children to go up to Tippin' Rock and be photographed.

7. Old Home Day - Motion by Feist to authorize the Open Space Committee to donate \$15.00 to the Old Home Day Committee. Seconded by Snow. Vote: All in favor.

Members discussed how the OSC could participate in the Old Home Day festivities (scheduled for July 17th). Thieme will discuss with Victoria Barlow how Star, Bright and Ike will be participating and how the OSC may be able to piggy-back (or ox-back) on those efforts.

OSC members discussed having a "booth" at Old Home Day. Information about the committee, its mission, the prior projects and

activities it has undertaken, will be available at the booth. Information about the Tippin' Rock Farm project will also be provided.

OSC also asked that Thieme relay to the Old Home Day organizers that they would like to incorporate the unveiling of Crowder's "Welcome to Swanzey" sign as part of the festivities. OSC suggested that it might be done at the conclusion of the parade - or perhaps as part of the "Grand Opening" ceremony for the 2010 Swanzey Old Home Day.

Motion by Feist to adjourn. Seconded by DiLuzio. Vote: All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sara H. Carbonneau
Town Planner