

## Swanzy Open Space Committee

2/10/09 meeting minutes

*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 meeting convened at 5:05 p.m.

**Attendance:** Victoria Barlow, Deb Crowder, Theresa DiLuzio, Katherine Feist, Bruce Tatro, Jeanne Thieme, Dan Zeh.

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

**Motion** by Feist to approve the minutes of January 13, 2009. Second by Thime. All in favor.

### MEETING INFORMATION

Members received the following by e-mail prior to the meeting:

- Copy of letter to T. Wessels re professional services
- Details of a fundraiser at Gomorlo's for Buck and Ike's hay fund
- Proposed 2009 events schedule and promotion approach
- Easement celebration party planning questions
- Draft letter to Keene *Sentinel* re Warrant Articles 6 & 7

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Closure of discussion of revised project evaluation form

OSC members discussed qualities of the project evaluation form contained in the *Plan for the Protection of Open Space*, Zeh's proposed revised project evaluation form, and the project evaluation form used by the Town of Peterborough.

Members supported the following revisions, using Zeh's proposed form as the base document:

- Assign numbers to responses, limiting each section to a maximum possible 25 points (Zeh will equalize weighting).
- Attach a disclaimer to the evaluation form: "This form is designed to guide decisions and, because each project is different, is not intended to compare points between parcels."
- Do not set a minimum number of points required for consideration of a project.
- Add attributes to the section on Active Agriculture, and combine the sections on Natural Beauty and Community Character (proposed below, with additions underlined):

#### ACTIVE AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

Prime soils (state or local significance)

Viable farm operation (now or potential)

Producing crops or livestock for human consumption

Presence of fields, open or in early succession

Productive forest resources

#### NATURAL BEAUTY & COMMUNITY CHARACTER

~~Is part of a prominent viewshed~~

Highly scenic from public ways

Protects unique views

Provides good view from property

Includes historically or culturally significant resources

Important focus or potential focus of community activity

Members agreed to use the revised form for six months, and to re-consider changes at the August meeting.

### Dates of upcoming events

- April 4, 2009 **Saving Special Places conference**, Gilford. Carbonneau and Barlow will present a workshop.
- April 6 2009 **“Reading the Forested Landscape” walk** for OSC and SCC members with Tom Wessels on land owned by Cynthia Richards, Swanzey
- May 30, 2009 **premiere of “Swanzey Rural Character.”** Showings at 4:00 and 7:00, Monadnock Regional High School auditorium
- May 31, 2009 **Buck and Ike’s birthday party**, Potash Bowl
- July 17, 18, 19, 2009 *The Old Homestead*
- July 19, 2009 **Old Home Day**
- September 12, 2009 **Monadnock Humane Society Walk for Animals**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Debriefing: Monadnock Conservancy Land Summit

*Becoming more active in soliciting easements* Members agreed that the OSC’s original approach has been successful in publicizing the concept of conservation easements, building goodwill, and assisting landowners who already were contemplating protection of their land. However, members also agreed that the time has come for the Committee to target specific parcels and use a more direct approach with property owners, especially in locations where it may be possible to connect conserved parcels to create contiguous blocks of open space.

*Tools and approaches* Members discussed the use of color-coded maps to clarify decision-making, and to direct a long-range (multiple-year) plan for action.

The group discussed resurrecting afternoon teas for landowners, to be held in private homes with local easement holders and Monadnock Conservancy staff in attendance.

Crowder noted that it may now be time for the Conservation Commission to develop an aquifer protection overlay.

DiLuzio recommended writing letters to inform abutters about recent conservation easements, prior to bulk-mailing announcement postcards to all citizens.

*Commercial/industrial development on Route 10* Members discussed the proposed extension of public water and sewer facilities on Route 10, and resulting increased likelihood for development of Yale Forest properties. The group agreed to undertake the work of determining whether sections of Route 10 should be re-zoned. This work would include recommendations of areas where the Town should direct commercial and industrial development, and would involve the Planning Board, Economic Development Advisory Committee, Board of Selectmen, and others. Barlow will develop a draft scope of the proposed work for consideration at the March meeting.

#### Responses to supporting materials; requests for future agenda items

*Date for Buck and Ike’s birthday party* The event will take place on May 31.

*Preparing bulk mailing of Pullen easement postcard* Barlow will contact members by e-mail when the card is available.

*Requested future agenda item* Work with maps to target specific areas most suited for development and conservation.

Event planning – easement celebration party

Members briefly reviewed a list of tasks and necessary decisions included in the meeting's supporting materials. Members agreed to take responsibility for areas about which they have strong feelings – eg, Feist will hand-address the invitation envelopes – and agreed to use e-mail to manage communication about who is handling tasks and what help is needed.

**BUDGET REPORT** January, February expenses:

2,000 Buck & Ike brochure/DVD inserts ~ \$485

3,500 Pullen conservation easement postcards – \$605

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Feist. Second by Thieme. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

Next regular meeting: March 10, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Reck Barlow, Chair