

**SWANZEY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES
APRIL 13, 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 April 13th meeting of the Swanze Open Space Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Jeanne Thieme. Members present: Jeanne Thieme, Katherine Feist (arriving at 6:05 p.m.), Deb Crowder, Theresa DiLuzio, Robin Snow and Judy Hildebrandt. Town Planner Sara Carbonneau was also present.

1. Meadowsend Timberland's Letter - OSC members reviewed the draft letter prepared by DiLuzio, introducing the OSC and inquiring if MT might be interested in putting some of its property into a conservation easement. OSC members felt that it was an excellent letter and could be easily modified to send to other property owners. Motion by Thieme to authorize the mailing of the letter. Seconded by Crowder. Vote: All in favor.

2. Ashuelot River/Homestead Avenue Hike - DiLuzio stated that an invitation has been extended to members of the OSC and Con Com by a property owner to hike property along the Ashuelot River/Homestead Avenue. This hike would be led by Peter Bablowski, a hydrogeologist. It was suggested that the best date for OSC and Con Com members might be Sunday, April 25th from 12:30 to 3 p.m. DiLuzio noted that this hike was being conducted by the homeowner and was not an activity sponsored by the OSC or the Con Com.

3. Buck - Thieme reported that Buck was put to sleep on April 3rd and noted that it was a very peaceful passing. People stopped by the field during the week before his death to say their good-byes. Dave Bulger's painting of Buck was displayed in front of Town Hall last week, with a note on the sign thanking Buck.

Thieme stated that David Bulger is donating his painting of Buck to Cutler School. A ceremony will be held at Cutler on May 4th.

Crowder stated that donations have been arriving in Buck's memory for the Route 32/Sawyer's Crossing Road Swanze sign. Crowder plans on having the sign ready by early July. It was suggested that the unveiling/dedication of the sign could occur at the Old Home Day celebrations. Carbonneau stated that she would speak with an Old Home Day Committee member regarding whether this would be a possibility.

4. Tippin' Rock Farm Easement - Thieme stated there are three levels of proposed fundraising - to make up the anticipated \$25,000.00 funding gap.

The first level is a \$10,000. grant application that Dan Zeh and the Monadnock Conservancy are working on to _____. (OSC members decided that they would simply refer to the Domina project as Tippin' Rock Farm for ease of public understanding. It was noted that there will be one parcel that consists of a donated easement from Bob & Lois Domina, whereas the other transaction will include a purchased conservation easement.) Thieme stated that the criteria for this grant seems to be more community based than ecologically based.

The second level consists of people who have some connection to the property (abutters, corn buyers, etc.) or who have expressed interest in land protection in the past or who are interested and involved in town government. It is anticipated that letters will be sent to them, explaining the project and asking for their assistance. While the \$\$\$\$s raised from these letters are very important, it was also noted that it is an opportunity to get the word out to the community about this project.

It was also suggested that Swanzey Lake Association should be contacted to generate interest - DiLuzio will contact Susan or Martha Zimmerman (officers in the association) to let them know that someone from the OSC and the MC would be interested in speaking with them regarding this project.

The third level consists of 20 or so people who will be approached to donate at a higher level. Feist and Ryan Owens will work on developing a strategy for approaching these people.

It was suggested that a visual depiction of the fundraising efforts could be placed in front of Town Hall - a suggestion was an ear of corn (painted on a 4x8 sheet of plywood) and filling in the kernels (each row representing \$500.00 for example).

5. Open Space Easement Celebration - Feist and Thieme reported on the status of the easement celebration. Reminder - it is Tuesday, April 20th from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Keene State College Camp on Wilson Pond. A brief ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. Those who are able should plan on arriving at 1:30 p.m. in order to assist in set-up. In addition, help will be needed at the end to clean-up. If you have flowers that you wish to loan for the occasion, please be sure to get them to Jeanne or Sara on Monday or Tuesday.

Motion by Feist to adjourn. Seconded by Snow. Vote: All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sara H. Carbonneau
Town Planner