

Swanzey Open Space Committee

4/8/08 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 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: Victoria Barlow, Deb Crowder, Theresa DiLuzio, Katherine Feist, Bruce Tatro, Jeanne Thieme, Dan Zeh; Town Planner Sara Carbonneau.

Guests/members of the public -

Producer Bruce Barlow presented the treatment for a video titled Swanzey Rural Character: The Movie. The video will be the senior project for Monadnock Regional High School student Evan Barlow, who will direct and edit it. The video will feature the stories of Swanzey residents who have protected their land with conservation easements, as well as brief interviews with a wide variety of Swanzey residents of all ages. Filming begins April 13 at Fencing Day.

Thieme recommended that Barlow listen to an audio tape of Mike Johnson's stories, "Watching the Corn Grow," taped 15 years ago. DiLuzio suggested including questions pertaining to Swanzey history in the person-on-the-street interviews. Members discussed whether the movie should be limited to Swanzey residents, or extend to include honorary residents such as "Uncle Gus" and Jerome Ebbinghausen from the *Old Homestead*. Members recommended including these people.

Status of current land protection projects (project manager)

Johnson easement (Thieme)

No new activity.

Pullen

Mr. and Mrs. Pullen intend to attend the easement celebration.

Dunn (DiLuzio)

On March 13 Dee Robbins met with the family to discuss easement possibilities. The meeting was positive; now family members need to talk amongst themselves and consult with their financial planner to determine any effects on their taxes.

Potential projects

No activity.

Liaison reports

SM - The Board recognizes that the Town's size and limited resources make it challenging to communicate among departments and committees. Selectmen seek ideas for ways to improve communication.

Carbonneau encourages people to make use of the Town web site, where agendas and minutes are posted; she may begin posting the Planning Board's public notices at the site.

PB - The CRS working group attended the Planning Board's April 3 public hearing on the draft Conservation Residential Subdivision regulations. Public comments were generally favorable. The Planning Board scheduled a second public hearing for April 17, to make sure the members of the Conservation Commission had reviewed the complete document.

Conservation Commission (SCC) – Members have been discussing the conservation residential subdivision draft regulations, and have submitted comments to the Planning Board. The Commission has been involved in discussions with the Mill K developer and the Selectmen pertaining to the flood storage area and easement.

Saturday, April 19 (rain or shine) is roadside cleanup day. Volunteers will meet at Town Hall at 9:00, and should bring their own gloves.

CIP – no activity

OS Advisory – The next quarterly report is nearly ready for distribution.

Status of assignments + projects

Web page – Grace Lilly offers use of her photographs at the Town web site.

Project management worksheet, communications log – no activity.

Protection of 3 town-owned parcels –

Barlow asked Committee members to revisit their request to express the 3/11/08 motion* in the form of a letter to the Board of Selectmen. In the past, to maintain good will, the OSC has followed a policy of minimizing taking positions on proposals for development.

The SCC has expressed the sentiments proposed for the letter, and the Selectmen have not asked the OSC to weigh in.

Members were willing to abandon the Mill K letter. However, members agreed that if the SCC asks the OSC to weigh in on a proposal for development, the OSC would readily oblige.

***3/11/08 MOTION** by Feist: The OSC strongly recommends that the Town engage an independent engineer, as well as soils and wetlands scientists, to oversee the Legere project to ensure enforcement of the terms of the development agreement. The independent agents, whose work should be paid for by the developer, should report back to all Boards that were involved in the original decision. Second by Winsor. All in favor.

Town land purchase/easement management – Crowder and Barlow

The Conservation Residential Subdivision workgroup continues meeting to amend the subdivision regulations. The amended regulations will incorporate the new Conservation Residential Subdivision regulations.

DiLuzio reminded the group of her previous recommendation that they consider incorporating language calling for the use of porous asphalt in subdivisions and site plans.

Buck and Ike – Barlow and Thieme

The team's crew had their first safety training session by Feist on Monday, April 7. Trainings are scheduled for April 14, 21, and 28, and volunteers are needed.

Buck and Ike have come out of the winter feeling frolicsome. In response, the crew also will meet on Fridays from 4:00 to 6:00. The boys should quickly remember their domestication.

Wildlife Action Plan maps

Zeh knows how to extract and depict the Swanzey WAP data. He will take on this work in a few weeks.

Resource Directory – no activity.

Budget report

To date, the balance in the Open Space Acquisition Capital Reserve Account is \$92,464.14 [\$40,877.26 (balance from 2005) + \$50,000 (balance from 2006) + \$2,137.68 interest less expenses \$4,925 (paid out in 2006) = \$88,089.14 + \$50,000 (allocated for 2007) less \$33,625 allocation for purchase of Johnson easement and \$12,000 for Perry Farm transaction costs. Projected pending expenses: Johnson transaction costs like will be on the order of \$15,000 ~ \$20,000.

\$4,059.09 remains in the "office account." Major expenses are as follows:

\$535 printing 3,500 copies of the Perry Farm postcard

\$441.11 bulk-mailing the postcard

\$285 printing 1,000 copies of the new Buck and Ike brochure

\$530 printing 1,000 note cards (which have served as easement celebration invitations

\$82 postage for the easement celebration party

\$150 Keene State College Camp at Wilson Pond facility rental

\$90 3 gift baskets handwoven by Meg Kupiec

\$535 (estimated) printing Buck and Ike's appearances postcard

(NB: Please distinguish the Open Space Acquisition Capital Reserve Account – managed by the Selectmen ~ from the Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund, which is managed by the Conservation Commission, includes income from the Current Use change tax.)

New business

Welcome to new members Dan Zeh and Selectman's representative Bruce Tatro

Group members introduced themselves, briefly outlining their special interests and areas of OSC expertise.

Annual easement celebration – Thieme and Feist

Thieme and Feist have mailed approximately 230 invitations. The responses are trickling in. OSC members should arrive at the KSC Camp at 2:00 to help prepare for the party.

Joint meeting with SCC ~

The two groups will meet briefly on Tuesday, May 13, from 6:30 to 7:00, to discuss ways to enhance communication and cooperation. Earlier this month, Barlow e-mailed to the SCC the OSC's report of mission, approach, and annual goals.

NH Town and City article

Carbonneau's article, "The Oxen Initiative," put Swanzey in the April 2008 issue's Community Spotlight. In addition to explaining the oxen's role in open space protection and community strengthening, the article also promotes the Town website, Buck and Ike's website, *The Old Homestead*, and Old Home Day.

Appointment of Bud Winsor to OSC Advisory Board

MOTION by Feist to appoint former OSC member Bud Winsor to serve on the Advisory Board. Second by DiLuzio. All in favor.

Easement monitor in training

DiLuzio is receiving training to monitor conservation easements for the MC.

Buck and Ike's Fencing Day - April 13, 1:00 to 4:00

Everyone is encouraged to bring friends (as well as brush cutting tools and dry boots) to help trim brush and string new fence wire at the Belding field.

Orton Foundation planning grant opportunity - Barlow and Carbonneau

Orton's decision has been postponed until the summer. Thirty-five municipalities submitted applications.

Monadnock Conservancy - On Friday, March 14, Barlow attended the first five minutes of the MC Board meeting, held in Swanzey, to express the OSC's gratitude for the MC's help in our Committee's creation and on-going success.

Ryan Owens has been appointed the new MC executive director.

New assignments

Committee members will continue to prepare for the April easement celebration, and train Buck and Ike. Please remember Fencing Day, and spread the word.

Minutes of 3/11/08 meeting -

MOTION to approve by Diluzio, second by Thieme. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Next meeting: May 13

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Barlow