

**SWANZEY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 21, 2010**

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

A special meeting of the Swanzey Open Space Committee was held on Sunday, November 21, 2010 at the Swanzey Town Hall. The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. Members present: Jeanne Thieme, Deb Crowder, Bev Bernard, Judy Hildebrandt, Theresa DiLuzio, Sharon Greatbatch, Katherine Feist and Betsy Braden. Town Planner Sara Carbonneau was also present.

Moving forward - Thieme welcomed everyone; introductions were made; Committee members briefly discussed why Barlow was no longer participating in today's meeting or in future meetings. Members shared the reasons why they wanted to be part of the OSC. The words protect and preserve land were often used - Braden reminded the group that the word "conservation" comes from the Latin "watching over" (the act of keeping safe).

Report from Carbonneau re: OSC and the Town's Perspective- Carbonneau reminded the Committee that the OSC is a town committee and is subject to the right to know law. OSC members discussed the use of e-mail, meeting minutes, posting of meetings, finances, etc. Carbonneau reminded the group that they are a town committee and how that differs from a Board of Directors for a non-profit. She stressed that the Committee is what the members bring to it each year and, as such, is fluid and changeable.

Accomplishments in 2010 for the Town Report - OSC members listed accomplishments for inclusion in the 2010 Annual Report

- Johnson Farm easement celebration
- Fundraising for TRF
- Window signs for TRF
- TRF hike
- Trail marking
- Unveiling of the corn-o-meter
- Successful grant applications (Q2C & LCHIP)

Old Home Day participation
Booth at Monadnock Humane Society Walk for Animals
Work on easements in process
Newest edition of Swanzey Rural Character Buttons

Thieme provide Committee members a listing of accomplishments from the beginning of the OSC's tenure.

Committee members noted that lessons learned over the past few years included staying/being objective, being patient; and realizing that it may take years to build trust.

Future accomplishments - OSC members discussed what they would like to accomplish in the upcoming year. Ideas mentioned included the following:

Hikes

- experiencing the lands that the OSC has helped to conserve.
- focus on kids - scavenger hunts, etc.
- building stories.
- telling stories.
- exposure to farms, fields and animals.

Celebrations

- Not only celebrate those who have put conservation easements on the land, but celebrate and promote the benefits to the Town.

Trail Maps & Promotion of Conserved Lands

- Trail maps of Honey Hill, TRF, Mt. Cresson & Mt. Caesar.

Greater Collaboration with Conservation Commission (as well as other Town Boards and Committees)

Be active participants/supports in roadside clean-up, Canoe the Ashuelot and other Con Com activities.

Joint meetings with EDAC, Planning Board, Preservation Society, Board of Selectmen, etc.

DiLuzio discussed the Grange building (located across the street from Town Hall) and whether the OSC could assist the Preservation Society in promoting awareness of their restoration project by utilizing the building. DiLuzio also wondered if there was a way that the OSC and the Preservation Society could partner on a grant application. It was suggested that members of the Preservation Society come to an OSC meeting to discuss their project and future goals.

Deb Crowder presented her thoughts regarding Peter Forbes' essay entitled What is a Whole Community:

~Promote/encourage

*public access to conserved land (trails, trail maps, publicity)

~Tell stories about the land

*record the land in photographs, video published information and stories

~Bring diverse groups together to share ideas about land use/relationships

~Engage children in

*stories

*exposure to land and land stewardship

*exposure to farms, animals

~Continue to celebrate with emphasis on whole community rather than 1 family - the benefits of land stewardship.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sara H. Carbonneau
Town Planner