

# Swanzy Conservation Commission

June 9, 2009 meeting minutes

*Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission.*

*Review and approval of minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission.*

ATTENDANCE Stephen Stepenuck, Gary Colburn, Deb Crowder, Mike Morrison, Bob Goodrich. Alternate Jane Johnson. Excused absences: Michael Day, Paul Daniello

Vice Chairman Stepenuck called the meeting to order at 7:00.

## Discussion of reports of related committees

*SWRPC Natural Resources Committee* – Morrison said that he will be unable to attend the next quarterly meeting, scheduled for 3:30 on Wednesday, July 22 at the Keene Public Library. Colburn will attend in Morrison's place.

*ARLAC* – Stepenuck said he has received no June ARLAC minutes. Stepenuck said that he e-mailed monitoring results from June to SCC members. Stepenuck reviewed data pertaining to *E. coli* counts, dissolved oxygen and other monitoring results from Swanzy locations. Group members discussed the locations of sampling sites, and possible reasons for high readings. Stepenuck suggested a new monitoring site upstream of the discharge from the high school leach field. Morrison said that he would consider taking the additional reading, and possibly one at the Carlton covered bridge. Morrison said he will discuss the matter with B. Skuly.

*OSC and Planning Board workgroup* Crowder discussed protection of Yale-Toumey Forest, stating that the OSC seeks to reach a balance of growth with preservation of as much of Yale-Toumey Forest as possible. As a compromise, Crowder said that the workgroup contemplates a zoning change to enable industrial development in the northernmost area bordered by Route 10 and Matthews Road. Crowder said that the group may determine that it is appropriate to zone some of Yale-Toumey Forest holdings for forestry, as some areas likely would be unsuitable for commercial or industrial development anyway. Crowder said that the OSC seeks to establish a relationship with the management of Yale Forest, and asked whether the SCC would like to sign on to a letter. SCC members concurred with the approach Crowder outlined, and said they wanted to protect against enlargement of the type of strip development that exists along Route 10 in West Swanzy. Johnson said that she has always felt that Yale Forest is one of the most important resources in Swanzy, and encouraged the group to do what is necessary to keep the Forest from being developed further.

Crowder reported that Barlow has resigned the OSC to accept a full-time position with the Town as assessing coordinator, and will no longer be able to serve the SCC as recording secretary.

*Growing Our Own* – no reported activity

*Stewards of Mt Caesar Advisory Committee* – Members agreed that the SCC had expressed support of a request for funding to help complete the gate project. Stepenuck said that bills (accompanied by invoices) should be submitted to Day, who will submit the invoice to Louder. Members received an e-mail message requesting funding earlier in the week.

**Motion** by Stepenuck to approve a contribution of up to \$250 for expenses of gate construction and installation, with invoices to be submitted to T. Louder care of M. Day. Second by Crowder. All in favor.

Treasury Report -- not available.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bardwell Farm retail development (Tax Map 38 Lot 1 and Lot 1-2) Members reviewed a copy the Wetlands and Non-Site Specific Permit 2009-00473, listing specific conditions of the application approval. Stepenuck said that the list appears to be “boilerplate.”

Homestead Dam removal permits submitted to DES DAY – Members reviewed a copy of a letter from DES to project managers requesting more information.

Moore Nanotechnology Systems, LLC— Stepenuck said that a request to DES for a permit amendment to move driveway was approved.

### Projects

*Mount Cresson trailwork* Stepenuck and Morrison met with Bob Spoerl, a representative of the Forestry Division of DRED, and hiked the loop with Spoerl. Stepenuck described Spoerl’s recommendations:

- enlarge the parking area
- drain wetness in the area
- incorporate stepping stones
- avoid use of logging roads
- avoid installing bridges on former logging roads
- possibly re-locate the trail away from a steep area
- mark turns with one marker above another
- use a GPS to lay out the trail
- use pillows and cradles as soil sources
- with tree removal, cut the tree 6’ high and remove the stump with block and tackle.
- cut overhanging branches at trunk of tree
- install a water bar just below the summit
- consider selective cutting to open up the view
- abandon plans to construct a spur trail to the wellhouse, for liability reasons
- do not begin trail construction at the beginning or end of the trail – leave the ends for last

Morrison said that Trailwrights are willing to come and help on workdays. SCC members discussed whether the amount of water warrants installation of bridges, and the presence of wooly adelgids. Morrison said that the trail work might yield a high school senior project. The group discussed scheduling a work session, and concluded that scheduling the session should be put on the agenda of the August meeting.

*Let’s Go Fishing* Morrison reported that the group is heavily scheduled through the summer, and recommended putting on the program after the school year resumes. SCC members agreed to make a decision at the August meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Applications and permits: none

Recent activity concerning Pisgah Park Stepenuck alerted SCC members to another comment period.

Swanzy Lake Quality Report from DES Crowder said that the report indicates little evidence of change.

Housing subdivision off Flat Roof Mill Road SCC members lacked information regarding a report of neighbor concern about wet driveways.

Mail and upcoming conferences/sessions – none

### **MINUTES**

**Motion** by Morrison to approve the minutes of June 9, 2009. Second by Johnson. SCC members decided to postpone consideration of minutes until the August meeting. Motion dies.

**ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion*** to adjourn by Morrison. Second by Colburn. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:11.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Reck Barlow  
Recording Secretary