

**Swanzey Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**10 July 2007**  
**7:00 p.m. at Town Hall**

**Attendees:** Art Whipple, Steve Stepenuck (SJS), Mike Morrison, Polly Glidden, and Paul Daniello (PD). Deb Crowder and Bob Wyman excused.

1. Call to order: 1907 hr.
2. **Minutes:** No meeting minutes approved. SJS indicates emphasizes that we need to get caught up on past minutes.
3. **Reports:**
  - i. **Treasury:** \$1300 in checking account; \$88,000 in MBIA (Capital reserve for land conservation)
  - b. **Subcommittees/regs Reports:**
    - i. ARLAC –SJS leads discussion regarding purchase of protected river signs from NHDES. SCC votes to purchase signs to be placed at Thompson, Cresson, New Bridge, Westport (5-0-0-4).
    - ii. Open Space Committee-No report
    - iii. NRAC-Next meeting 25 July 2007.
4. **Guest speaker: Grace and Michael Lilly (spelling?):**
  - a. Grace expresses concern about local invasive species populations. Japanese knotweed-large patch near recycle center. Knotweed goes to seed in August. Grant money is available to control and remove. Grace cites Rye's Recycling Enhancement Project, Amherst's \$20K for invasive plant study, and Multonborough's \$1K for non-chemical treatment. Typically, hack down plants followed up by herbicide application (e.g., Roundup).
  - b. **Action items:**
    - Art will talk with Dave Krisch (recycle center manager) about accessing the knotweed patch.
    - Grace will apply for grant to offset herbicide cost.
    - Mike will ask if there are interested students willing to conduct manual removal (hack stems).
  - c. **Purple loosestrife-**
    - Grace and Mike Lilly observed plants near 101/Swanzey Factory Rd.
    - She mentioned biological controls (beetles). Grace would like to see more public exposure to local invasive plant problem.
    - PD suggests that she write an article in Swanzey Uncovered and SCC web page. Grace added that she could include links to other invasive plant resources on web page.
5. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a. **Honey Hill** To date the Selectboard have not responded to the SCC proposal to designate a small parking area for the Honey Hill easement with access signage.SJS sent email/letter to Selectboard on January 11.
  - b. **Muster Property** Work day scheduled for 20 July at 1300 hr..
  - c. **Carpenter-French** Deb not present to update on signage.
  - d. **Conservation Camp** Mike reports student is attending on 25 July.
  - e. **Cresson Trail** Mike is interested in walking the parcel with Allen Gross to scope out potential trail improvement. SJS will schedule with Gross.
  - f. **Johnson Farm** Request from selectboard for SCC position on potential conservation easement purchase. Monadnock Conservancy will hold easement. SCC supports the proposal.
  - g. **Miscellaneous**

- i. No response from Selectboard to SJS's letter (13 December 2006) requesting secretarial services and copy machine repair.
- ii. PD reports on Land for Good workshop in Keene. Session focused on problem of farm succession. It looked at case studies and provided valuable references to available resources.
- iii. PB 2007 zoning amendments-No report. Grace Lilly references strong wetlands ordinance in Nashua.
- iv. SCC web page: Grace invited to draft article on Japanese knotweed to educate residents about invasive species.
- v. NH Wildlife Action Plan (SJS): Consider value of presenting the plan to select board, planning board, and other town boards. Items of note-
  - 1. Landscape variety within watershed (i.e., upland and wetland) is important
  - 2. Corridors between core areas
  - 3. Wetlands buffers typically insufficient for protection of amphibians and vernal pools.
  - 4. Roads attributed to habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation.

## 6. New Business

- a. **Violations: Cambridge Farms of Jamesport**-NHDES letter of deficiency
- b. **Permit/variance:** Proposed subdivision of 2-ac. Lot on Spring St to 2 x 1-ac. Lots. Public hearing on 19 July.
- c. **Miscellaneous:**
  - i. Multi-tenant application-no apparent conservation implications
  - ii. Mail: UNH Granite State Wildlife and Woodlot Management course
- d. **Other business:**
  - i. Rymes-increase storage of various fuel products from 80,000-gal to 120,000-gal
  - ii. Spring St wood processing
  - iii. NH Municipal Association
- e. Next month meeting: SJS proposes a social at his residence. Business will be conducted if necessary.

Meeting adjourned @2045

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Daniello

