

Open Space Committee

May 12, 2009 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, Jeanne Thieme, Dan Zeh. Town Planner Sara Carbonneau also was present.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Correction to minutes, proposed by Zeh: ~~Eastern~~ wood turtle

Motion by Zeh to approve, as corrected, the minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting. Second by DiLuzio. All in favor.

REPORTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Friends of Mt. Caesar Advisory Committee (DiLuzio, Zeh)

DiLuzio reported that discussion topics at the recent public information meeting – attended by about fifteen people – included ATV use of the trails. She said the Advisory Committee plans to schedule a Fish and Game conservation officer to help frame recommendations related to ATV use. Zeh said that he expects the group to consider discouraging ATV use when wet conditions make the trails most vulnerable to damage; he noted that most trails in Pisgah Park are closed to ATV use during mud season. Ultimately the Advisory Committee will present their recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Carbonneau said that the permission of the Board of Selectmen is required for ATV users to ride on Class VI roads, and said that such permission has not been granted in the past. As statute requires of snowmobilers, Carbonneau said that ATV users must have the express (and possibly written) permission from private property owners to ride on their land.

DiLuzio said that an ATV club is forming, and will encourage responsible use of ATVs. Members of the new group may be interested in playing a role in organizing use of Mt. Caesar trails.

DiLuzio said that no signs have been posted yet, and the group still waits to hear whether they have been awarded the grant to fund construction of a gate. She said that the Advisory Committee likely will recommend a gate at the Carpenter Home entrance to the trails.

- Zoning workgroup (Crowder)

Crowder reported that the first meeting of the workgroup was devoted to general discussion of issues and approaches, and said that those present appeared to be in general agreement regarding the desire to protect Yale Forest land from development to the greatest extent possible. She said that the group discussed options for zoning changes, including creation of a forest preservation district. Crowder said that she will advocate expansion of the existing Industrial Park off Safford Drive, and will encourage the group to direct development towards Route 12. She said that Zeh has agreed to prepare maps to aid discussion.

- Update on conservation easements in process or possible (Barlow, DiLuzio)

Barlow reported that the Johnson survey is in process. DiLuzio said that the Nature Conservancy has expressed interest in a possible partnership with the Monadnock Conservancy to protect some portion of land in Swanzey that abuts the Ashuelot River.

BUSINESS

Buck & Ike's birthday party Committee members reviewed and discussed final plans and assignments for staffing, set-up, the program of events, and clean-up.

Swanzey Rural Character world premiere Committee members reviewed printed materials, and discussed plans for promotion of the premiere, the premiere itself, and plans for release and sales of the DVD.

Future possible directions for Swanzey Rural Character project Committee members discussed a possible collaboration with the Monadnock Conservancy's Community Conservation Partnership. The event could include a screening of *Swanzey Rural Character* with special guest Lyman Orton.

Other business as may be required

Crowder reported that two hikes on the former land of Perley Swett in Stoddard; Crowder has details about dates and times.

IMPORTANT DATES

May 30 **Premiere of "Swanzey Rural Character"** MRHS auditorium, 4:00 and 7:00.

May 31 Buck and Ike's birthday party Potash Bowl, 1:00 to 3:00

July 17, 18, 19 *The Old Homestead*

July 19 **Old Home Day**

September 12 **Humane Society Walk for Animals**

October 3 **MRHS homecoming**

BUDGET REPORT

Approximately \$3,000 remains in the year's budget. Major expenses to date are as follows:

\$150 Keene State College camp rental, easement celebration party

\$485 Brochures/DVD inserts - Buck and Ike

\$450 Pullen postcard bulk mailing

\$605 Pullen postcard printing

\$459 Buck and Ike postcard printing

\$697 Buck and Ike events postcard bulk mailing

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Zeh; second by Thieme. The meeting adjourned at 6:30.

NEXT MEETING

Next regular meeting: June 9, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Reck Barlow, Chair