

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2014

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

Present at Meeting: Chair Thieme called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Jeanne M. Thieme, Bob McElvey, Beverly Bernard, Theresa DiLuzio, Karen Sielke, Alternate Victoria Reck Ames, Alternate Judith Hildebrandt and Selectmen’s Representative Kenneth P. Colby, Jr. Mary Farnsworth joined the meeting at 5:14 p.m. Ames was seated for Sharon, and Hildebrandt was seated for Deb Crowder.

Absent: Alternate Deb Crowder, Sharon Greatbatch

Others Present:

Minutes:

Ames **moved** to accept the minutes from April 9, 2014 and McElvey seconded the motion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Report on NMH event May 9** – Discussion occurred regarding the event held at the Northfield Mt. Hermon School which was a Farmer’s Market Teach-In which the committee participated in. It was noted that the sale of the toy oxen and the bracelets helped defray the cost of having the oxen transported from New Hampshire to Massachusetts. There was also discussion about the students who visited the table top hosted by the OSC. DiLuzio said it was good to see students interested in agriculture. The school has a working farm and sold products made on the farm at the event. Ames mentioned the selfies (photos of themselves taken by students with cell phone cameras) taken by students with the oxen that help to promote the work of the Open Space Committee as well as the school itself when these are posted on Facebook.
2. **Update on any project potentials.** DiLuzio informed the committee that there is a resident of the Town who is perhaps interested in putting a Conservation Easement on her property which borders the Ashuelot River. The property is about 35 acres.
3. **Trail postcard update** - DiLuzio suggested that perhaps the committee should rework the OSC mission statement (before trail post card is printed) to include Forbes' user-friendly "words" and cut words that project a negative feeling. I discussion was held regarding the proposed changes to the mission statement and the following was voted on:

“Your Open Space Committee promotes the beautiful rural character and open space in Swanzey that we all love. We do this by bringing together landowners and land trusts and by providing the tools to assist in keeping land open forever. This benefits the land owners, their families, and everyone in the community. The work of your Swanzey Open Space Committee supports our town and its unique rural character.”

Motion was made to accept the revised Mission Statement as stated above by Sielke, with a second by McElvey. All were in favor and the ***motion passed.***

Bernard will send new mission statement to Assessing Coordinator Coleen Birmingham for posting on the Town website and to Sielke for use on the proposed postcard. Discussion continued on the fonts to be used and the wording for the front of the postcard. The committee reviewed various photos and agreed on one photo for the front of the postcard and where the opening words would appear. Sielke suggested using gray on sections of the postcard. Ames suggested acknowledging the photographer of the photo somewhere on the postcard.

Discussion was held regarding postal service zip codes and how to prepare the cards for mailing. Farnsworth said the quote from GemGraphics for 5000 cards was \$433. The committee agreed on ordering 5000 cards. DiLuzio suggested that next time the committee should discuss a brochure for Dickinson Forest. A brief discussion occurred regarding helping to label the cards for mailing.

4. **Material Stored in Town Hall must be moved**

Colby spoke about the problem with the trusses in the roof of Town Hall and everything stored in the attic of Town Hall has to be removed. Colby suggested using part of the Grange Hall for storage. A movie screen and projector and a few boxes of materials including banners need to be removed. The laptop is currently in the possession of Director of Planning and Community Development Sara Carbonneau. Some discussion was held about talking to the folks who manage the Grange building so they are aware of the need to move materials there for temporary storage. Colby suggested talking to Town Administrator Shane O'Keefe about using the Grange.

O'Keefe joined the meeting at 5:51 p.m. to discuss removing OSC materials from the attic. O'Keefe said he is meeting with the City of Keene regarding their record storage facility and the possibility of using that for storage of Town materials. He suggested that on a temporary basis the material can go to the Grange and should be done within next two weeks. The Grange is a Town-owned building. The committee has until the end of the month of May to remove its materials. O'Keefe will contact Eileen Longe who is associated with the Swanzey Preservation Society and find out when someone can meet the OSC at the Grange. O'Keefe will contact Thieme with an update.

Discussion occurred regarding renting a trailer but O'Keefe pointed out there is no climate control in an ordinary trailer. The laptop, the projector, and the screen need to go somewhere and not into a trailer or insecure building. Bernard offered to take the laptop, screen, and projector to her home to store temporarily, if need be. Colby and O'Keefe left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

5. **Update on Sawyer's Crossing Bridge Work** and how it might affect Rail Trail Awareness day which is currently planned for August 2, 2014. A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of having to move the date should the work on the bridge necessitate use of the

parking area for a construction landing. No new information was obtained and this item was tabled until the next meeting.

6. **C&S Wholesale Grocers Event** -May 18, 2014 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – the event will be held at C&S business location on State Route 12. Sielke will help from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Thieme mentioned that they met with the person in charge of this event. Thieme will follow the oxen trailer and will plan on being there. McElvey will be there just before noon and will help with closing up. Ames said she would not be doing the same type of lesson as done at Northfield Mt. Hermon but is willing to have members of the committee involved in walking with the oxen.
7. **Walk for Animals** - June 21, 2014 to be held at the Dillant-Hopkins Airport once again. Thieme said plans are set. Farnsworth suggested a poster at the Humane Society to promote Old Home Day. The committee has done this in the past. Farnsworth mentioned recruiting children for the Old Home Day parade at this event. Start time around 9:00 a.m. and winds up by 2:00 p.m. Farnsworth suggested making a large poster and put it on an easel to recruit children for the parade.
8. **Old Home Day and parade** - inviting families to march in the parade. Thieme reported that Greatbatch has contacted Recreation Committee Chair Judy Bohannon about reaching out to children at the Swanzey Lake Camp to invite them to join the parade. A discussion was held about how to encourage children to join the committee in the parade noting a lack of attendance in the recent past. Thieme said that the children had been involved with oxen Buck and Ike in the past and were eager to do anything for and with them. But the Town's children haven't bonded yet with oxen Jesse & James. Thieme asked for ideas on how to get the children to relate to the oxen today. Sielke asked if it has to be about the oxen and since the goal is about the parade. The year we called families and invited them to join the parade, it was successful. Thieme said she believes the personal touch works. Hildebrandt asked about inviting Scout groups but it was noted they already walk in the parade as a group. Discussion on what might be a relevant activity to be done at the Swanzey Lake Camp. The parade starts at 10 a.m. and participants will meet at the cemetery to begin the parade.

Ames suggested that children need to be connected in more ways than just the parade. A discussion occurred regarding how children can be invited to "take care" of the oxen. Hildebrandt suggested planning a party for Jesse & James. Bernard mentioned a possibility of doing a scholarship to Camp for kids in the name of the oxen. Ames suggested a back-to-school picnic with the oxen. Management of the oxen is easier if the event is held outside Mt. Caesar School since the paddock is nearby. Teachers would need to be contacted regarding the effect of using a September date for Mt. Caesar children since school has just begun at that point.

Discussion continued about who is the Principal of Mt. Caesar since the school district is making some changes in school leadership. Ames said she will research who the right person to speak to about such an event as proposed.

9. Hildebrandt presented a Treasurer's Report showing the committee has \$4,936.82 in its budget as of May 14, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

DiLuzio **moved** to adjourn; McElvey seconded the motion and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
Adjournment occurred at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly Bernard", written in a cursive style.

Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary