

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Conservation Commission Meeting**  
Meeting Minutes – July 7, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Stephen Stepenuck at 4:12 p.m. Committee Members Present: Wally Smith, Robert Goodrich, Stephen Stepenuck and Jane Johnson. Goodrich left the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

**ABSENT**

Ric Dell’Erba, Gary Coburn, Mike Morrison

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**MINUTES**

Minutes of June 2, 2014 were deferred until the August meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Cresson Bridge Archeological Work**

Goodrich spoke about meeting an archeological consulting firm which was at the parking area at the Cresson Bridge doing a dig. Goodrich asked them if they found something interesting to contact him if they were willing to come to the Town and review their findings. The name of the firm is Independent Archaeological Consulting LLC at 603-430-2970 and web site [www.iac-llc.net](http://www.iac-llc.net). Ellen Marlatt is the person in their office to contact regarding reports.

**Scenic Roads**

There was a brief discussion about designating some Town roads as scenic roads.

**Volunteers for Trail Maintenance**

Goodrich pointed out that the City of Keene posts an ad in the Keene Sentinel newspaper seeking volunteers for trail maintenance – Goodrich suggested that Swanzey might do the same.

**Sympathy Card**

Stepenuck provided a sympathy card for Barbara (Polly) Glidden which he offered to sign for the entire Swanzey Conservation Commission. The rest of the members agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Dumping Ordinance**

Smith spoke about Stepenuck’s presentation regarding monitoring water quality of the Ashuelot River, including the South Branch. He said he was inspired to pursue further the idea of the Town writing an ordinance to discourage dumping of trash on Town roads and property. Smith said he found five samples from other towns and passed them along to Recycling Center Manager Bob Osterhout for his review. Smith suggested that Osterhout be invited to the next Conservation Commission meeting to discuss the issue further and perhaps put an ordinance together.

**Motion** by Stepenuck to invite Recycling Center Manager Bob Osterhout to next meeting of the Conservation Commission to discuss possible ordinances against dumping, second by Johnson, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

### **Honorary membership**

Discussion occurred regarding an honorary status for Deb Crowder.

### **Trash at Yale Forest/Sawyer's Crossing Road and Old Route 10**

Johnson reported that land off Sawyer's Crossing Road is being torn up by folks with a truck with Confederate flag on the tailgate. She reported that people using the turn off areas adjacent to Yale Forest are leaving trash and refuse there. Johnson said she wasn't sure whether the land belonged to the Town or the State but that such dumping of trash should be controlled somehow. Smith said that Johnson's report indicates a need for a dumping ordinance so that some of these folks could be fined if caught.

### **Riley Property**

Discussion was held about spraying of invasive plants to eradicate them at the Riley conservation area. Stepenuck reported that Jeff Taylor runs the vegetation control service and he told Stepenuck that there is a need for a special permit from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) and a map of the area to be treated before he can begin treatment. Taylor was reported to have said that the work should be done in late August or September.

Stepenuck said that someone was doing wheelies in the small cattail wet area. Some discussion was held about plants that were put into the area by Morrison's students at the behest of the Conservation Commission and then were cut down by a farmer for hay. Boulders are now in place to keep folks out of the wetland. Stepenuck reported that there are also new signs in place: "Authorized Vehicles Only" and "Keep Out". Suggestion was made about communicating between various folks who are interested in supporting the property and Stepenuck said he is concerned that public property be so restrictive with a "Keep Out" sign in place. A discussion was held regarding a second canoe access which would necessitate folks going beyond the boulders to park to access the second canoe access.

Johnson asked if the Conservation Commission should consider putting in some trees as a buffer between the conservation area and the neighboring homes. Stepenuck said there are some trees as a buffer already in place.

Stepenuck spoke about the Riley property sign. He said he has the sign and post which are ready to be raised. The sign has been paid for. Smith volunteered to help raise the sign. Stepenuck asked for a good date for members to help out. A number of dates were suggested. Stepenuck said that he also wants an opinion from the commission members for a second canoe launch access. July 21<sup>st</sup> was considered as a date to raise the sign and review the second canoe launch area. Stepenuck said he would try to choose a date for the members to join him at the property to clear a launch area. Discussion was held regarding where to place the Riley sign and an agreement was reached that the sign be placed on the north side of the access road, approximately 20 feet off Matthew's Road. Discussion continued regarding the position of the boulders and its impact on a second canoe launch area.

### **Cresson Property**

The well-house was discussed as being a safety hazard. Stepenuck passed around a cell phone with photos of the well-house showing the roof collapsed on one side. There was a discussion about placing boards to cover the water to prevent a child from falling into the well. A discussion was held regarding how to cover the well; Johnson suggested a cover for the well. Johnson also suggested a “danger” sign might be worth considering. Johnson suggested an elderly member of the community, Ruth Adams, might know something about the history of the well-house. There was some discussion about consulting the original Cresson management plan. Stepenuck confirmed that the members agreed the well should be covered by planks.

There was a brief reference to the consideration of a perimeter trail, but decision was made to discuss further at the August meeting.

### **Honey Hill Trail with bridge in need of repair**

A brief discussion was held regarding an eroded area around a log bridge on the hiking trail that needs to be fixed. The member agreed to discuss this issue further in August.

Brief discussion was held about access to the Honey Hill trails and the fact that parking on the west side of State Route 32 would be safer than the existing parking area on the east side of the road. Crossing the road is dangerous due to fast moving traffic, especially for children. Discussion continued about who owns the property now and approaching them regarding the possibility of making some parking available on the west side of State Route 32. Discussion occurred regarding someone to speak to the owners of the land to have permission to use their gate way and make a small parking area on the town right-of-way land.

### **Use of Open Space Committee Projector for River Monitoring presentation**

Stepenuck raised the issue that he needed an adapter to use the Open Space Committee projector with his new laptop. It cost him \$ 57.30 to purchase an adaptor that will work with a laptop newer than the one the OSC owns, which was purchased with the projector, and which works with the projector without an adaptor.

### **Mail**

- Request for a Permit By Notification (PBN) to NH DES by Jonathan D. Hoden to repair or replace a retaining wall at the dock landing and deck supports on his property at Swanzey Lake (196 East Shore Road) – Stepenuck read aloud a response notice from NH DES regarding the permit form submitted by Hoden as being incomplete – required plan or sketch was missing among other items also missing. The commission will monitor the situation.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Swanzy Factory Road Work**

There was a brief discussion about commercial development on Swanzy Lake Road which is close to a waterway. Also mentioned was the fact that several large trees had been cut down.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjournment** occurred by unanimous consent. Adjournment occurred at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beverly Bernard".

Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary