

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Open Space Committee (OSC)**  
Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2014

**Present at Meeting:** Chair Thieme called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Present were Chairman Jeanne M. Thieme, Bob McElvey, Karen Sielke, Mary Farnsworth, Alternate Victoria Reck Ames, Alternate Judith Hildebrandt and Selectmen’s Representative Kenneth P. Colby, Jr. Ames was seated for Crowder. Hildebrandt was seated for Greatbatch. Sharon Greatbatch joined the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

**Absent:** Beverly Bernard, Theresa DiLuzio, and Alternate Deb Crowder

**Others Present:**

**Minutes:**

Thieme **moved** to accept the minutes from June 11, 2014 and McElvey seconded the motion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Hildebrandt reported that \$3474.80 remained in the Open Space Committee’s annual General Fund allocation as of June 30, 2014.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Walk for Animals report (June 21)**

Members present offered positive feedback to this year’s Walk for Animals held on the Airport grounds. Attendance was good and the oxen had many admirers. It was suggested that more publicity was needed for the oxen, prior to and during the Walk> It was suggested that there be signage indicating their ‘names’ on or at the sites of their events. It was noted that OSC members arrived at 2 p.m. to help take down the OSC table, only to find it ended earlier.

**2. Old Home Day (July 19)**

Details of the OSC participation in the Old Home Day activities included the parade (Show up, at 9:30 at Talbot Hill), set-up and staffing of the OSC booth, and take-down following the event. A large poster and flyers of the event, encouraging children to participate, were distributed to OSC members to post around town.

Details: Oxen will be delivered by Ames and Rick to the Talbot Hill site -- set up booth: Thieme and DiLuzio, McElvey, Farnsworth? Everyone will walk in parade with Jesse, James and Bright: Sielke will find 2 children to carry the banner. Mini-flags will be given to children who join the walk. Booth break-down after event: Sielke and Hildebrandt. Sielke will collect the booth paraphernalia and keep it until the upcoming Rail Trail event. It was suggested that this might be a good opportunity to sell stuffed ‘Buck and Ike’ toys for the Hay Fund.

**3. Rail Trail Event (Aug. 2)**

McElvey, Sielke, Sharon and Kenny Greatbatch and others are on the committee for the Rail Trail Awareness Day on Aug. 2nd starting at 9:00. The OSC has authorized a max of \$800 to

Greatbatch to use for Rail Trail and Old Home day events: hand-outs, refreshments, etc. Karen will deliver table and handouts to the Rail Trail event. Discussion was held about media publicity.

It was noted that beginning Aug. 3 for a period of three weeks, the Cresson Bridge will be closed to traffic for repairs.

It was suggested that OSC and others offer a workshop with other town commissions on up-keep of the trails, specifically accumulation of brush and bushes at each of the intersections with Matthews Road which impede visibility of both drivers and cyclists, and related safety issues.

**4. Ashuelot River presentation (June 26)**

Sielke reported on the scholarly presentation given on June 26 at Town Hall by Steve Stepenuck of the Conservation Commission on the condition of the Ashuelot River on its e-coli count and its various sources of pollution from incoming waterways and adjacent properties. The group applauded Stepenuck's efforts.

**5. Postcards**

Members noted that the "trails" postcards may have generated an increase in trash along the various hiking paths. Discussion followed about 'do not trash' signs and their effectiveness or lack thereof. Farnsworth will look into options.

**6. September Hike (Sept 20)**

Sielke will host and lead the Sept. 20 (rain date 21<sup>st</sup>) hike up Honey Hill along with Mary Farnsworth.

7. Reminder about the Aug. 23 annual celebration of the Monadnock Conservancy. Details to follow.

**ADJOURNMENT**

McElvey moved to adjourn; Greatbatch seconded the motion and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment occurred at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Judith M (Judy) Hildebrandt

Approved on August 13, 2014