

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2014

Present at Meeting: Vice Chair Greatbatch called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. Present were Bob McElvey, Beverly Bernard, Theresa DiLuzio, Karen Sielke, Sharon Greatbatch, Alternate Judith Hildebrandt and Selectmen’s Representative Kenneth P. Colby, Jr. Hildebrandt was seated for Thieme.

Absent: Chair Jeanne Thieme, Mary Farnsworth, Alternate Deb Crowder, and Alternate Victoria Reck Ames

Minutes:

DiLuzio **moved** to accept the minutes from July 9, 2014 and Sielke seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Old Home Day Review

The committee reviewed the event and discussion occurred about several suggestions made to committee members from folks attending the event. One suggestion was that the OSC co-host some hikes with the Monadnock Conservancy. Another suggestion was that there be parking for access to Rail Trail on Pine Street. DiLuzio mentioned that old PSNH site might be available. Discussion occurred about the possibility of a land swap. It was noted not many children were there for the parade. Greatbatch said that the early section of the parade from Talbot Hill Road was sparsely attended and she said she prefers starting at Centerview Drive. Colby noted that the event was well attended this year.

2. Rail Trail Awareness Day

Sielke informed the committee that the event had about 50 in attendance; 34 bikers, 16 walkers, and 11 dogs. She reported that Farnsworth said there should have been more help with crossing the road especially for young families. McElvey said it is good to have crossing guards for kids. There was a discussion about the need to increase visibility by cutting back shrubs and maybe rumble strips to warn motorists that pedestrians might be crossing. Discussion included adding speed bumps for the rail trail crossings. Publicity was good. There was more publicity this year, but it was thought the weather held up attendance a bit – it was grey and cloudy. About \$350 was spent for this event.

3. Carroll’s Hill

Discussion was held regarding the need to clean the trail and enhance blazing. Folks trying to use the trail need more direction. It was noted that the property owner doesn’t want too much clearing for fear that ATVs will try to use the trail. Bernard mentioned that at the Rail Trail event one individual mentioned it was difficult to know where to park.

4. September hike

Sielke reported that Saturday the 20th of September is planned for the hike on Honey Hill with rain date Sunday September 21, 2014. DiLuzio offered to help out with the hike. Bernard offered to also help. There was some discussion about using funds to advertise the hike. It was agreed that a hike doesn't need advertising like other events sponsored by the committee. Colby mentioned the committee should spend its budget when there is an event to publicize. The committee discussed purchasing posters.

There was a **motion** by Sielke to expend up to \$100 to promote this event and the motion was seconded by Hildebrandt. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

5. Steve's Letter re Dickinson Forest

Greatbatch informed the committee that bikes are on the trail and for walkers to be on the alert for them. They are cutting over to the rail trail. It was also noted that the trail has been moved away from where it was eroding. Sign was moved, the parking area is completed.

6. Colby gave an update on the West Swanzey Park

Colby updated the committee and told them, weather permitting, the pavement will be done, sidewalk will be done, and fencing will be done by September. DiLuzio said that folks will be glad to see work being done.

7. Town Hall talk in October

DiLuzio would like posters to be created. Bernard offered to create some if DiLuzio will provide the pertinent information. She also offered to create an article for the newspaper if there is enough material available. DiLuzio will research available material. The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. on October 22, 2014. Greatbatch suggested that the committee can discuss more thoroughly at the next meeting in September.

8. Inventory of OSC items

Greatbatch spoke about having an inventory list of possessions of the OSC. She will follow up with Director of Planning and Community Development Sara Carbonneau in reference to the OSC laptop and with Steven Stepenuck for the OSC projector, which was borrowed by Stepenuck for a presentation earlier this year. She said her goal is to have a complete list of items, where they are being kept, and a log book for folks signing out and returning the items.

ADJOURNMENT

McElvey **moved** to adjourn; Hildebrandt seconded the motion and all were in favor. **Motion passed.** Adjournment occurred at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary