

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Conservation Commission Meeting**  
Meeting Minutes – September 4, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Robert Goodrich at 4:11 p.m. Committee Members Present: Wally Smith, Robert Goodrich, Ric Dell’Erba, and Stephen Stepenuck.

**ABSENT**

Gary Coburn, Mike Morrison, Jane Johnson

**OTHERS PRESENT**

There were no others present.

**MINUTES**

- Minutes of August 4, 2014 were considered. Motion by Smith to approve the Minutes of July 7, 2014. There was a second from Goodrich. No further discussion and all were in favor. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**West Swanzey Water District**

Discussion occurred about the West Swanzey Water District Study Committee and the work they are doing. General discussion occurred about water and sewer service in West Swanzey.

**Illegal Dump Ordinance**

Smith informed the members that he met with Recycling Center Manager Bob Osterhout and Town Administrator Shane O’Keefe regarding the proposed ordinance put together by the Commission. He discussed some modifications to the ordinance, charging different fines for first and subsequent offenses. O’Keefe will ask Town Counsel to review the proposed ordinance and O’Keefe will bring it to the Department Heads for review. After that process is completed, the proposed ordinance would go to the Selectmen and then Warrant Article to raise the level of awareness of the citizens of the Town. The proposed ordinance covers dumping on owner property, as well as dumping on non-owned property.

Discussion occurred regarding a State of New Hampshire RSA that is pertinent and Health regulations that are also pertinent. Smith reported that Director of the Department of Public Works Lee Dunham gets a lot of complaints about dumping of debris and other materials and therefore he probably would be in favor of such an ordinance.

**Camp Ground Expansion**

Discussion occurred regarding the expansion planned for the Ashuelot River Campground which would include adding sewer and water facilities. According to the public notice for meeting with the Swanzey Planning Board the applicant wishes to reconfigure the location of the previously approved camp sites and to add full services (water, sewer, electric) to 30 camp sites. The members reviewed the site plan provided by Code Enforcement. Discussion included proximity of the campsites to the Ashuelot River.

The Planning Board will be meeting to respond to the request on September 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Swanzey Town Hall. Members of the Conservation Commission were encouraged to attend.

### **Clearing the View at Mt. Caesar**

Goodrich reported that someone asked him about clearing the top of Mt. Caesar to improve the view. Discussion occurred regarding clearing out the view on Mt. Cresson as well.

### **Flat Roof Mill Septic System on land for sale**

Goodrich said the Swanzey Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) denied the plan presented but that the applicants could return with another design which might be acceptable. A discussion followed regarding the septic design impact on the South Branch of the Ashuelot River. Stepenuck and Goodrich said that they were not opposed to the project per se and they hoped that the applicants can come up with some way to provide septic service to the property which would be safe for the river and any nearby wells.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Parking Area at Honey Hill Trail Access**

A call was made to Johnson who was not able to attend the meeting, but who wished to be called about this issue. Discussion occurred regarding whether or not Tina LaBarre and her husband were invited to a meeting to discuss parking space on the west side of State Route 32 for safer access to the Honey Hill trail via Town property. Johnson reported that the LaBarres would be open to working with the Conservation Commission to provide access through their hay field to Town property. Stepenuck volunteered to show Johnson the location where the Commission would like to see additional parking for one or two cars on Town property. Johnson noted that LaBarre moved the hay field gate closer to the road to keep folks from driving in and running over his posts.

Stepenuck described the access that would be desirable. He spoke about putting in boulders to define a parking space for two or three cars on Town property. Stepenuck suggested that perhaps the Commission could help put in a pasture gate, which would encourage the property owners to agree to allow access to parking on that side of State Route 32.

#### **Well House on Mt. Cresson Repair**

Stepenuck reported that the price for spar varnish was approximately \$20 a quart and \$50.00 a gallon. He said he needed a gallon for the work to be done and requested reimbursement for \$49.99 for purchase of the spar varnish to make repairs on the well house.

Smith made a **motion** to approve and reimburse expenditure of \$50.00 by Stepenuck for purchase of spar varnish for repairs to the well house on Mt. Cresson. There was a second by Goodrich. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

Discussion followed regarding when and how to make the repairs.

#### **River Clean-up**

There was a brief discussion about the clean-up planned for October 4, 2014 by Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee (ARLAC), working with the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC). Stepenuck

mentioned that the bags that are provided by the CRWC are well made. Dell'Erba said he would contact Barbara Skuly and offer to help.

### **Christian Hill Bridge Closing**

There was a brief discussion about the Christian Hill Bridge closing due to the bridge being in bad condition.

### **REPORTS**

- **Open Space Committee (OSC)** – Honey Hill work September 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. – Bernard informed the Commission about the work party planned to try to improve the wet muddy area at the start of the hiking trail. There was a discussion about using palettes to improve the area.
- **Mail** –
  - o Drinking Water Quality newsletter “The Source” from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).
  - o Notice of Invalid Permit by Notification – from NHDES for application of Jonathan Hoden for work planned at 196 East Shore Rd., Swanzey, NH. It states that the project does not meet the rules and criteria for the Permit By Notification process.
  - o Wetlands and Non-Site Specific Permit 2014-00440 from the NHDES for Berkshire Construction Co. LLC of Winchester, NH for project located at Talbot Hill Road, Swanzey on Tax Map/Lot 43/11 with Conditions listed in the letter. Approval date: August 7, 2014 with Expiration Date: August 7, 2019. A discussion ensued regarding history of the project and threat to the wetlands and watershed for Swanzey Lake. Stepenuck questioned the legality of putting in a road inland from Talbot Hill Road for houses. Stepenuck recommended the members attend the Planning Board meeting when this project is reviewed. Smith said that he would like to know how this project conforms to the Master Plan.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjournment** – motion to adjourn by Dell'Erba with a second from Smith. All were in favor, motion passed. Adjournment occurred at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary