

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2014

Present at Meeting: Chair Thieme called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Bob McElvey, Beverly Bernard, Theresa DiLuzio, Karen Sielke, Sharon Greatbatch, Alternate Victoria Reck Ames and Selectmen’s Representative Kenneth P. Colby, Jr. Mary Farnsworth joined the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

Absent: Alternate Deb Crowder and Alternate Judith Hildebrandt

Minutes:

Sielke **moved** to accept the minutes from August 13, 2014 and Greatbatch seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Hike on September 20, 2014** –work party at 9:30 a.m. to work on the wet area at the beginning of the trail. Sielke can’t be there, but McElvey, Bernard, Farnsworth and Thieme will be there. Discussion occurred regarding the hike itself and who would be there. It was agreed that if the Committee has a PDF of the postcard, it should be posted on the OSC website. Bernard will follow up with Coleen. Sielke said she would also work to get a notice on the Town Hall sign board. Bernard will complete the submissions for the event calendars for the Keene Sentinel newspaper and the Monadnock Shopper.

2. **October Cellar Talk** – DiLuzio brought the Committee up to date on the plans for the talk. An article for the Keene Sentinel will be done by Bernard. There was a discussion about creating ten posters 8 X 11.5 and one larger poster for Whitcomb Hall. DiLuzio said the speaker will need the projector, the screen, a projector adaptor in case it is needed, and a display table. October 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. is the planned event and the presenter will be here at 6:30 p.m. Thieme will act as emcee. There was a discussion about having food available for attendees. Greatbatch volunteered to provide cider and cookies. Thieme suggested a display table with items to give out from both the OSC and NH Humanities Council. There will be an evaluation form that will need to be filled out after the presentation.

Discussion occurred regarding the number of people that might be attending the event. Ames suggested adding to the article and information to publicize the event that we register attendees because of our limited space. It was agreed that the Committee make a request for registration because seating will be limited. The OSC is paying \$84.00 for the costs of the presenter, but not including costs for posters and food. DiLuzio will prepare a list for the October meeting with tasks and names assigned.

Greatbatch suggested that the Committee make themselves aware of cellar holes in Swanzey in case someone attending is curious about them.

3. **School/Oxen Connection** – Ames spoke about the idea and about the time needed to put together such an event would require a great deal of planning and coordination, and enough energy to sustain contact with children. Ames suggested that the amount of work involved might be too much for the Committee at this point in time. Bernard suggested that parents and/or teachers might be an asset to any planning for such an event in the future. Farnsworth suggested that the Committee considered the concept for next year.
4. **Monadnock Conservancy (MC) Annual Event** –Thieme summarized the event, as did DiLuzio who invited a landowner to attend with her. The celebration was in honor of the MC 25th anniversary. Peter Forbes was the key speaker and he did mention the Swanzey Open Space Committee in recognition of the work the Committee has done.
5. **Future Planning**- Thieme suggested that the Committee think about what the Committee can do to celebrate landowners. Thieme mentioned that our publicity should mention the landowners as making our trails possible, and making it possible to maintain our rural environment.
6. **Update on the West Swanzey Park** –Colby reported that the Swanzey Sidewalk Committee has chosen to support the cost of a wall and fencing for the park. He also mentioned the Whitcomb Hall Chicken Barbecue and that it was successful.
7. **Safford Drive Ground-breaking** - Thieme summarized the groundbreaking event and mentioned the work of another town’s economic development committee and their open space committee working together to attract business and preserve the land which also attracts people. Ames spoke about the history in town when the OSC got together with Swanzey Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Planning Board and how they were in agreement to work together for the benefit of the Town in putting aside open space as well as industrial space.
8. **Matthews Road project** – DiLuzio summarized next steps.
9. **Possible Full Moon Hike** - Farnsworth mentioned the possibility of a full moon hike on Hewes Hill November or December.

ADJOURNMENT

Sielke **moved** to adjourn; McElvey seconded the motion and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
Adjournment occurred at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary