

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – October 8, 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 5:10 p.m.

Absent: Alternate Deb Crowder and Alternate Judith Hildebrandt

Minutes:

Ames **moved** to accept the minutes from September 10, 2014 and Greatbatch seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Budget Review** – Thieme began the discussion regarding the budget. Colby mentioned that the departments and committees need to “toe the line” on their requested budgets for the upcoming year. There was talk about the costs involved in the October Cellar Talk – and Thieme suggested that the project manager for an event should be able to spend up to \$50 without needing the committee to vote on it.

Motion was made by Thieme to permit the project manager for an event to expend up to \$50 for minor supplies for the event, submitting any receipts to the Chair for signature for processing by Bookkeeping. There was a second by DiLuzio and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Ames suggested maintaining 2013 level funding for operating budget and land acquisition account. The operating budget is \$5,000 and the land acquisition account was \$50,000 in prior years, but reduced in 2013 to \$30,000 so that \$20,000 could go to the Whitcomb Hall restoration work. DiLuzio said that she thought the request for the land acquisition account should go to \$50,000 again since that was the budget amount approved for many years in the past. Thieme suggested that all members of the committee be present at the Deliberative Session to defend the reasons for \$50,000 for land acquisition in the Open Space Committee budget.

Thieme made a **motion** to request \$5,000 in operating expenses account and \$50,000 for the land acquisition account. DiLuzio seconded the motion. All were in favor except Colby who abstained. **Motion passed.**

A brief discussion was held regarding the letter which is usually written each year as explanation for the budget request. Thieme noted that she will write that letter.

2. **October Cellar Talk** – DiLuzio spoke about the promotions for the presentation – poster for Whitcomb Hall, several smaller posters for bulletin boards, articles in the Keene Sentinel

newspaper, the *Monadnock Shopper*, and on the OSC Facebook page which were provided by Bernard. DiLuzio passed out a task list for each member of the committee. Sielke provided the plastic standup frames for small posters. It was agreed that the OSC banner be in place for the event. DiLuzio will get the check for the presenter from the Bookkeeper. Members of the committee offered to print up and post more posters around town. Bernard agreed to send the poster PDF file to the Committee members. Ames offered to write the text for the Town Hall outdoor sign. Thieme offered to take some photos to add to the archive book.

3. **Hike on September 20 – Feedback** – Sielke said sadly that no one showed up. It was chilly and cloudy that day which probably discouraged hikers. Thieme suggested that perhaps the OSC consider hikes that no one has done before and no one knows about. DiLuzio suggested Yale Forest if the committee can get permission. McElvey suggested that it could be a one-time hike off the beaten track. Ames suggested that landowners can talk about the history of their land. Greatbatch spoke about the possibility of planning a hike that is focused on a particular group like a school group or scouts. Thieme suggested post-event promotion. Greatbatch suggested an annual event.

Tabled until next meeting in November:

4. **Possible Full Moon Hike** - Farnsworth mentioned the possibility of a full moon hike on Hewes Hill November or December.
5. **West Swanzey Park Opening Party Idea**

ADJOURNMENT

Thieme **moved** to adjourn; Sielke seconded the motion and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**
Adjournment occurred at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary