

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – November 12, 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 5:14 p.m.

Absent: Alternate Deb Crowder and Alternate Judith Hildebrandt

Minutes:

Sielke **moved** to accept the minutes from October 8, 2014 and McElvey seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **October Cellar Talk** – Discussion occurred regarding the event which about 50 people attended and for which there was standing room only at Town Hall. It was generally agreed that the event was a resounding success and DiLuzio was thanked for her work to organize it. DiLuzio reported the comments from those who attended and all but one of them were glowing. She also reported the costs for the event, which was approximately \$140. DiLuzio said that another talk available from the NH Humanities Council called “Stone Walls” might be planned for 2015. Some of the comments provided by attendees suggested starting a committee to research cellar holes in Swanzey, which could be considered as an event to plan for 2015. Thieme congratulated DiLuzio on delegating tasks to other members of the Committee for the event, which was appreciated by all. Discussion occurred regarding starting a cemetery holes research group and what it would entail. Thieme suggested pursuing the idea further at the yearly retreat.
2. **January Retreat**– Discussion occurred regarding scheduling the retreat and the process the Committee used for generating ideas and making a decision as to which to pursue.

Motion was made by Bernard to hold the retreat at the Bridges Inn on Saturday, January 17, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and there was a second by Greatbatch. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

3. **Proposal for Adopt a Grade** – Discussion occurred regarding putting this topic on our list for the retreat. The members agreed to do so.
4. **Buttons** – Thieme suggested updating the buttons that the Committee gives out during Committee events. She said the remaining buttons are old and some do not work properly. Ames displayed artwork of an ox that was done by a local artist which Thieme suggested might work for an updated button. The shape of the buttons was discussed and a square button was considered given the shape of the artwork. Thieme said she thought the image shown by Ames might be a more generic image of an ox and therefore not tied to a particular animal. The Committee agreed to pursue this idea.

Motion was made by DiLuzio to create a new Open Space Committee button using the image of an ox provided by Ames; McElvey seconded the motion and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Discussion continued regarding Pure Button.com website and the ability to research the work they do. Ames volunteered to lead up the project.

5. **Winter Hike** – Farnsworth spoke about being unsure of the level of interest a cold winter hike might generate among residents. Greatbatch suggested waiting to consider the idea during the retreat. The members agreed.
6. **Landowner Gratitude Celebration** – Farnsworth suggested some sort of event to express gratitude to landowners for their willingness to consider placing their land in conservation. Thieme suggested this be another topic for the retreat. The members agreed.
7. **West Swanzey Park Update and possible Celebration** – Colby said the creation of the park is moving ahead slowly. He provided a summary of activity thus far including the fact that the wall is completed and the terrace has begun. Much work has yet to be done. Colby mentioned some possible dates for having the celebration in the spring of 2015 and Old Home Day was discussed as a possible date. Farnsworth suggested a road race. Greatbatch suggested considering Brown Field for Old Home Day every other year. Colby suggested that ideas about moving Old Home Day to another site would need to be presented to the Old Home Day Committee early in their planning.
8. **Proposed 2015 Budget** – Thieme mentioned the need to support the budget request from the OSC. Budget hearing is in January on a Tuesday night. Colby said he thought that the Deliberative Session will be on the first Tuesday of February. Colby also told the members that the Board of Selectmen is considering a proposed tax rate of 26.16. He said the Board is trying to hold the budget for 2015 to the same level as in 2014. Thieme suggested the members of the Committee place the date on their calendars to attend the Deliberative Session when the vote is taken on the budget in order to support the OSC request.
9. **Open Space Guide**- Thieme introduced an Open Space Guide from Yarmouth, Maine for consideration by the Committee. DiLuzio said she thought it might be suitable to produce a similar booklet for Swanzey residents and have all the information about the Open Space Committee in one publication. Bernard suggested that the Yarmouth booklet be passed around to all the members of the Committee for review of the contents. Discussion occurred regarding postcards versus a booklet and the information provided by each. It was agreed to provide the booklet to Director of Planning and Community Development Sara Carbonneau so that Committee members can borrow the booklet for review.
10. **Land Available for Events** – Ames spoke about some land she is aware of that might be useful for Open Space events.

ADJOURNMENT

Thieme **moved** to adjourn; Sielke seconded the motion and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Adjournment occurred at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly Bernard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary