

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2015

Note: Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Committee. Review and approval of minutes generally takes place on the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.

Present at Meeting: Chair Ames called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Bob McElvey, Beverly Bernard, Karen Sielke, and Sharon Greatbatch. Mary Farnsworth joined the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

Absent: Theresa DiLuzio, Selectmen’s Representative Ken Colby, Jeanne Thieme, Alternate Deb Crowder

Minutes:

Sielke **moved** to accept the minutes from March 11, 2015 and McElvey seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

AGENDA ITEMS

EVENTS AND EVENT PUBLICITY

Discussion was held regarding preparations for the April event – Yale Forest Hike. Farnsworth is managing the project.

- April event: Yale Forest hike
 - Purpose: Explore Yale Forest
 - Date, time, location: April 25, 2015, Ash Hill Road
 - Parking: Ash Hill – parking limited to north side
 - Suitable for ages: all
 - Exertion level: moderate
 - Special equipment: proper footwear
 - Publicized (name, date)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keene Sentinel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monadnock Shopper News
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OSC website	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OSC Facebook
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town website news	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town movable type sign
<input type="checkbox"/> Posters	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

REPORTS

Events postcard

Ames noted that Greatbatch, Thieme, and DiLuzio did the work of preparing the postcards for mailing and posting them. She thanked them for doing that work. The postcards have been well received in the community.

Stories of Place

Ames reported that the event that took place on March 28, 2015 at the Cheshire Historical Society included Emily Kerylow’s stories of childhood with Swanzey farmer Mike Johnson at the now-protected Ridgehill Farm. Ames reported that the event was a great success with some 200 people attending.

Ox training

Ames reported that on April 1 & 2, 2015 two classes of Landmark College students learned the fundamentals of ox driving, practicing driving oxen Jesse and James. Ames reported that students were grouped into teams of human "oxen" and teamsters, for first-hand experience with training oxen. Ames said the event has given her confidence to try this approach with younger children.

DISCUSSION

Cooperative Representation between the OSC and the Conservation Commission

A brief discussion was held about committee representation recommended in the Plan for the Protection of Open Space to enhance cooperation and the sharing of information between the two groups.

Ashuelot River Project Letter of Support

Ames spoke about the Monadnock Conservancy conducting a walk on land that the Conservancy is considering conserving. The walk is scheduled for April 22, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. and the members of the OSC are invited to attend. Greatbatch mentioned the issue of public access.

Bernard made a **motion** to support the effort to conserve lands in Swanzey by the Monadnock Conservancy, and authorize the Chair to write a letter expressing that support and have it reviewed by the members, second by Farnsworth, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

West Hill Conservation Area Funding

Funding for the West Hill Conservation area was discussed. It was agreed that meeting with the Board of Selectmen was appropriate to convey new information about the project. Individuals who might be interested in the information may also be invited to that meeting.

Nature Play Space

Ames spoke about an invitation to pitch a proposal on Sunday, June 14, 2015, at the first day of Antioch's Conservation Psychology Institute. Ames suggested talking about Belding Field and the possibility of using that for nature play space. Antioch students could then brainstorm ideas and possibly develop a project for the OSC.

ADJOURNMENT

Sielke **moved** to adjourn; Greatbatch seconded the motion and all were in favor. **Motion passed.** Adjournment occurred at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary