

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Open Space Committee (OSC)**  
Meeting Minutes – June 10, 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 Beverly Bernard, Karen Sielke, Sharon Greatbatch, Jeanne Thieme, Alternate Theresa DiLuzio and Selectmen's Representative Ken Colby. The Chair seated DiLuzio for McElvey.

**Absent:** Alternate Deb Crowder, Bob McElvey, Mary Farnsworth

**Minutes:**

Ames **moved** to accept the minutes from May 13, 2015 and Greatbatch seconded the motion. All were in favor except Colby who abstained. ***Motion passed.***

Ames **moved** to accept the minutes of May 27, 2015 and Greatbatch seconded the motion. All were in favor except Colby who abstained. ***Motion passed.***

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**EVENTS AND EVENT PUBLICITY**

Discussion was held regarding preparations for the June event.

- June event: Walk for Animals
  - Purpose: Build awareness of OSC goals and activities
  - Date, time, location: Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Dillant-Hopkins Airport – set up at 9:00 a.m.
  - Parking: Dillant-Hopkins airport – terminal building parking lot
  - Suitable for ages: all
  - Exertion level: low
  - Special equipment: table, chairs, trucking for oxen
  - Publicized (name, date) – to be done by the Walk for Animals event planners
  - Pooper scooper detail – Sielke
  - New buttons and postcards to be given out
  - DiLuzio, Sielke, Thieme, Ames will be in attendance to help out, and probably Farnsworth

**REPORTS**

**Mt. Cresson brush clearing**

Greatbatch spoke about the work party. Thanks to Ken Greatbatch for his work with a chain saw and the work done by Sharon Greatbatch, and Thieme, Sielke, and DiLuzio. Bernard posted the photos of the clearing work on the Swanzey Open Space Committee Facebook page.

**Use of Richardson Park pavilion for Wessels talk**

Greatbatch noted that she has learned that Whitcomb Hall can only hold fifty people and renovation work is underway which makes it an unlikely venue for the Wessels talk. Greatbatch said she also spoke

to Recreation Director Judy Bohannon about the Town-owned Richardson Park building and it is available, although not heated. After June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the committee is invited to take a look at the room. It is rustic according to Bohannon. Bohannon said there aren't a lot of chairs, but the OSC could rent some chairs. Colby suggested checking with the Fire Department. They may have chairs. The Committee decided to visit the facility on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and meet Bohannon there.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Ashuelot River project site evaluation**

Ames passed out the form for the Ashuelot River project site evaluation by the members to be filled out and given to Ames, which was done at the meeting.

### **OSC Business Card**

Ames passed out samples of the business card ideas that Bernard created from Farnsworth's suggestions. Colby said he liked something that jumps out with a lot of color. Sielke and Farnsworth voiced opinions for the simpler form. After some discussion the committee agreed to produce the more colorful cards. Bernard will speak to GemGraphics about pricing to print the cards. She agreed to share the pricing information with the committee at the next meeting.

### **West Hill Conservation Area funding**

Debrief following June 9 meeting with Monadnock Conservancy, Selectmen & members of Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee to detail easement changes that result from acceptance of ARM funding. Ames summarized the meeting of June 9<sup>th</sup> and the decision of the Board of Selectmen to continue to support the project with funds.

### **Update on SCC survey of LaBarre property relative to Honey Hill hiking trails access.**

Bernard summarized the Conservation Commission meeting that decided to hire John Bridges for a new survey of Town-owned property due to the LaBarre's unwillingness to allow access to town-owned property neighboring to the LaBarre property. Before going to the Board of Selectmen, the survey will be the information needed to determine next steps. The Commission authorized \$350.00 for the work. The LaBarres also claim that OSC trail-map box is on their property. Ames read an e-mail message from Steve Stepenuck from the Conservation Commission about the situation.

### **Old Home Day, July 18, 2015 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Ames summarized what was done in the past with booth and participation in the parade and the members agreed to participate in the same way once again, including the oxen. Ames said that Mike Gomarlo is going to be the Grand Marshall of the parade and Thieme suggested that Gomarlo ride near to the oxen. Ames will follow up. Parade starts at 10:00 a.m.

### **August 14, 2015 Bonfire and Star-gazing in Belding Field**

Ames said that the Town has a process to follow for events. She said she would get approvals from the various department heads including Fire Chief Norm Skantze, and Police Chief DeAngelis. She also informed the members that it would cost \$125 for a porta-potty for one day. A discussion was held about whether or not this event would be an OSC sponsored party or a private party. Ames suggested that starting small with just neighbors and guests at a private party would provide insight as to what works and does not work for a larger OSC-sponsored event that would be open to the public.

Colby left the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

**Grade-School Children visit to Belding Field**

Ames described the day with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children visiting with the oxen at Belding Field and how lively and eager they were to be with the oxen.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**Art exhibit**

OSC member Thieme's paintings of conserved land will be on display at the Historical Society of Cheshire County through September 5. The show is co-sponsored by the Monadnock Conservancy and other partners.

**Monadnock Conservancy Newsletter article**

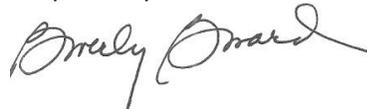
Ames passed out a copy of a recent Monadnock Conservancy newsletter in which Susan and Karen Sielke were the focus of an article about searching for a vernal pool. The members agreed that it was an interesting article and noted the good work that both Susan and Karen do in helping identify healthy natural environments.

**NEXT MEETING:** July 8, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

Sielke **moved** to adjourn; Greatbatch seconded the motion and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***  
Adjournment occurred at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary