

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2015

Present at Meeting: Chair Ames called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Present were Victoria Reck Ames, Karen Sielke, Jeanne Thieme, Sharon Greatbatch (arriving at 5:20), alternate Theresa DiLuzio, and Selectmen’s representative Ken Colby (leaving at 5:35).

Absent: Bob McElvey, Alternate Deb Crowder. The Chair seated DiLuzio for McElvey.

Others Present: citizen Jean Minnich

Minutes: Sielke **moved** to accept the minutes of October 14, 2015 and Thieme seconded the motion. All in favor. ***Motion carries.***

AGENDA ITEMS

Swanzey maps Ames reported that Keene State College geography major and Swanzey citizen Megan Pietrowski notified the OSC by e-mail to say that preliminary materials will be sent to Committee members by e-mail within the next week.

Event debrief: “Discovering New England Stone Walls” talk on October 21

Members agreed that the event went well. Those present noted that the large size of the Cutler School all-purpose room comfortably accommodated the approximately 45 attendees; however, it was a little difficult to hear the presenter.

Open Space Preservation & Protection Non-Restricted Account (donations made in the memory of Jean Blood) Members discussed the disposition of the money in this account, considering ways to further Jean Blood’s legacy of open space protection and her use of horsemanship to help children find meaning in the natural world. Members noted that the Ashuelot River Pony Club meets at the Swanzey horse farm of Cynthia Richards; each level of Club advancement requires completion of a conservation component.

Motion by Ames to request that the Board of Selectmen contribute the \$504.62 held in the Open Space Preservation & Protection Non-Restricted Account to support scholarships in the Ashuelot River Pony Club. Second by DiLuzio. All in favor, with Colby abstaining. ***Motion carries.***

Future directions for OSC Members considered past and current work of the OSC, and the Committee’s role in the community. Members discussed potential future projects for the Committee. Those present agreed to continue the discussion at the January meeting.

Conservation Land Acquisition capital reserve fund Ames reported that she communicated with Town Administrator Branley by e-mail to inform him of the OSC recommendation that the Town continue its historical practice of budgeting \$50,000 for conservation land acquisition.

December meeting By consensus, in consideration of time demands of the holiday season, members agreed to not hold a Committee meeting in December.

January meeting By consensus, members agreed to conduct the OSC's customary annual planning retreat at the Bridges Inn in west Swanzey. Ames will follow up to ensure availability and potential dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by DiLuzio to adjourn; Greatbatch seconded the motion and all were in favor. ***Motion carries.***
Adjournment occurred at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Reck Ames, Recording Secretary