

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – December 9, 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 5:03 p.m. Present were Victoria Reck Ames, Karen Sielke, Jeanne Thieme, Sharon Greatbatch, and Selectmen's representative Ken Colby.

Absent: Bob McElvey, alternates Theresa DiLuzio and Deb Crowder.

Minutes: Sielke **moved** to accept the minutes of November 11, 2015 and Greatbatch seconded the motion. All in favor. ***Motion carries.***

AGENDA ITEMS

2015 budget considerations Members discussed year-end expenditures. After considering allocating funds in anticipation of 2016 projects, members agreed to postpone such decisions until after setting 2016 work goals at the annual planning retreat. Members discussed the importance of the Ashuelot Rail Trail in furthering the OSC mission.

To further the OSC mission of engaging people in ways that strengthen our community and our connections to the land, motion by Ames to disburse \$2,000 from the OSC operating budget to Swanzey's Ashuelot Rail Trail project. Second by Thieme. All in favor. ***Motion carries.***

January planning retreat Ames reported that the number of expected attendees has grown. Greatbatch suggested that the OSC express, with a gift of flowers, the Committee's appreciation for the exemplary hospitality of the Bridges Inn; members concurred.

To cover additional annual planning retreat expenses, motion by Thieme to authorize the Chair to expend funds not to exceed \$150. Second by Sielke. All in favor. ***Motion carries.***

Trail steward program Members briefly discussed the possibility of initiating a stewardship program for hiking trails in Swanzey, noting that volunteers from the community have expressed interest in taking part.

OSC membership Ames reported that, due to an impending move, Bob McElvey has stated that he will be resigning from the OSC, but will attend the planning retreat in January. Members agreed to invite prospective new members to the planning retreat.

January meeting The OSC's annual planning retreat will take place on Saturday, January 23, from 9:00 to noon, at the Bridges Inn in west Swanzey.

For information:

Tippin Rock trail blazes Monadnock Conservancy Executive Director Ryan Owens reports noticing on his recent hike that, per convention, the Tippin Rock trail double blazes are reversed: a turn to the right should be indicated with an upper blaze located to the right of the lower blaze, instead of to the left of the lower blaze.

Where the Sidewalk Ends and the Trail Begins KSC geography students present maps on Thursday, December 10th at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Matthews Road easement and forested floodplain restoration Jan McClure (The Nature Conservancy) will present the project to the SCC at their January 4 meeting.

Town budget hearing Tuesday, January 12, 7:00 p.m., MRHS auditorium

Town deliberative session Tuesday, February 2, 7:00 p.m., MRHS auditorium

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Greatbatch to adjourn; Sielke seconded the motion and all were in favor. ***Motion carries.***
Adjournment occurred at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Reck Ames, Recording Secretary