

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2016

Note: Minutes are subject to review, correction, and approval by the Commission. Review, correction, and approval of minutes generally occur at the next scheduled meeting of the Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Wally Smith at 4:02 p.m. at Swanzey Town Hall. Committee Members Present: Bob Goodrich, Mike Morrison, Stephen Stepenuck and Jane Johnson.

ABSENT

Beverly Bernard

OTHERS PRESENT

Open Space Committee Chair Victoria Reck Ames

MINUTES

- Minutes of February 1, 2016, were considered. **Motion** by Morrison to approve the minutes of February 1, 2016. There was a second from Stepenuck. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Wayne Young Timber Harvest

Morrison reported that he has been unable to reach Bruce Berry in regard to the Wayne Young timber harvest. The Commission would like to take a second look at the cut. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Roadside Cleanup

Johnson spoke of how Keene handles road side cleanup by assigning specific areas to volunteers. Johnson suggested that Swanzey could offer a reward, perhaps a gift certificate for a free ice cream or coffee and donut, to volunteers who come back to Town Hall to report how many bags were collected.

Motion by Morrison, seconded by Goodrich, to expend up to \$250.00 in ice cream gift certificates to be given as awards to road side cleanup volunteers. All were in favor.

Motion passed.

Bobcat Public Hearing Results

The Commission discussed the recent 5 to 4 vote by the Fish and Game Department to approve a limited bobcat hunt season. The Judicial Review Committee will review the vote to decide if Fish and Game followed protocol. They will be taking new testimony from those that oppose the hunt. A proposal has been made to open the membership to other organizations besides the current makeup of the commission. Stepenuck stated it seems like an organized campaign to get Fish and Game to reverse the decision. The Commission agreed to keep this item on the agenda and to continue to monitor the issue.

L&G Propane Variance

The Commission discussed the Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing held on February 8, 2016. L&G Propane has proposed to install two 60,000 gallon underground tanks. During the hearing, no mention of Town of Swanzey Conservation Commission

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security was made. Smith brought up the issue and his ideas were thought to be good ones. Smith stated he believes the installation of new tanks will happen. He will plan to attend the March Planning Board meeting.

Anti Dumping Ordinance

The Commission reviewed the Scaramelli report and agreed to delay any action until after the ordinance is approved. Smith suggested that perhaps high school kids could help design a sign to be posted around town. Whitcomb Road and Matthews Road were mentioned as high priority areas.

AbTech Inc – 1,225 sf Addition

Johnson stated that she has toured this business before. She explained that it is a very clean business whose products are shipped all over the world. She stated she has no issue with the new addition. Stepenuck wondered what kind of chemicals and/or solvents are used and if the company is aware of good practice so as not to pollute the air/ground/water.

Tina LaBarre – Consignment Business – 140 Monadnock Highway

The Commission had no concerns with this item. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Aquifer Protection Ordinance - Status

Johnson reported that she met with Larry Cummings. Stepenuck agreed to join the Aquifer Protection Committee. There will be a total of five (5) members including Beverly Bernard. The Committee will meet later in the month of March once membership is finalized.

Open Space Rotation

March – Johnson, April – No meeting, May – Stepenuck

Muster Property

Smith reported that both the cable and signage are not up yet. Stepenuck reported that Tracey Boisvert from NH Office of Energy and Planning will be on site Wednesday, March 9, 2016 to inspect the Muster Field. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Monadnock Conservancy Easement Amendment Policy

Ames spoke of her personal opinion of the Monadnock Conservancy. She spoke of the 3 tiers of the Amendment Policy. Tier One would be adding land to an existing easement. There are benefits associated with a conservation easement and adding land to it would expand those benefits. If there are questions regarding the benefits, they would be reviewed at the Attorney General level. Ames provided a copy of the Amendment Policy to the Commission.

REPORTS

- **ARLAC** – None. Stepenuck stated he will contact Swanzey's representative Barbara Skuly to request copies of the minutes which could then be ready at the Commission's meetings.
- **Open Space Committee** – Ames handed out a copy of the form that the Committee uses when they conduct a site walk. As part of their due diligence, the Committee sits down and fills the form out together. The form then becomes part of the official record of the easement. The OSC will be

conducting a site walk on the Stuart & John property. Stepenuck reported that this property was cut to within one tree width of the river bank. The tree cutting was investigated as far up as the Secretary of Agriculture whose office informed that agriculture can do what it wants.

- **Budget** – A total of \$61.40 has been spent so far this year.
- **Selectmen** – It was noted that both the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk are resigning.
- **Municipal Facilities Review Committee** – No meeting since the deliberative session.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion to adjourn by Johnson with a second from Morrison. All were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Coleen Birmingham, Assessing Coordinator