

Town of Swanzev, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Swanzev Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Wally Smith at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Committee Members Present: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Stepenuck, Bob Goodrich, Mike Morrison, Jane Johnson and Beverly Bernard.

ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Town Administrator Michael Branley

MINUTES

- Minutes of March 7, 2016 were considered. These changes were noted: page 1, paragraph headed with “Bobcat Public Hearing Results”, replace Fish and Game Department with Fish and Game Commission, instead of Judiciary Review Committee on page 1, next line, it should be Joint Review Committee, bottom of page 1 regarding “during the hearing no mention of security was made” and remove the entire sentence. Smith brought up “security”, and not “issue”. **Motion** by Morrison to approve the Minutes of March 7, 2016 as amended. There was a second from Johnson. All were in favor except for Bernard who abstained. Stepenuck arrived late and did not vote on the minutes. **Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Changes in the Minutes

Memo provided by Town Administrator Michael Branley states that “beyond running the draft by the chairman, the other revisions really need to occur at the next meeting of the commission.” Commission members agreed to follow this procedure from now on.

Lake Host Program with the Swanzev Lake Association

Branley spoke about the request from the Association to help fund the Lake Host Program at Swanzev Lake in a proposed amount of between \$2,500 and \$3,500. This program was contributed to by the Town out of the general budget in the past. Branley said that the money is used to control milfoil in the lake by having folks examine boats before entering the water. Johnson asked about the possibility that if the Commission were to help fund the program for Swanzev Lake, perhaps Wilson Pond would request funding as well. Morrison noted that there is a public boat launch on Wilson Pond. Smith suggested a 50/50 contribution.

Motion was made by Stepenuck to contribute \$1,500 from the Conservation Fund toward the Lake Host Program at Swanzev Lake. There was a second by Morrison and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Election/Confirmation of Committee Officers

Motion was made by Morrison to reelect the existing officers, Smith as Chair, Vice Chair Stepenuck. There was a second by Bernard, with no further discussion, and all were in favor.
Motion passed.

Cresson Mountain: Wayne Young Timber Harvest Proposal Bruce Berry inspection/recommendations

Morrison said that Berry now lives in Keene and Morrison will follow up with Berry at his home. Smith said that perhaps with as much as is on the plate for the Commission members, this project should go on the back burner. The Commission agreed to continue with following up on this project but not as a priority.

Roadside Cleanup - Discussion/Assignments

April 30, 2016 is the planned date for the annual roadside cleanup. Discussion was held regarding where to pick up bags. Smith spoke about filling out an application form. Johnson said she would pick up the bags. Bernard will call Public Works Director Lee Dunham to inform him of the date. Johnson discussed getting the Scouts and the Daisy troop involved in the cleanup. Johnson spoke about asking for donations from ice cream vendors of ice cream certificates as an incentive for the volunteers to return to Town Hall once their work is done to report how many bags they filled with trash. Goodrich suggested the Lake Association might be willing to help.

There was a discussion about having an ice cream social or a cookout on the same afternoon of the cleanup sometime in the future, but not this year. Stepenuck said he obtained orange vests in the past to be used by Scouts. He noted that the Commission has given the gloves away in the past. Stepenuck said he would obtain 40 pairs of gloves.

Smith noted that Conservation Commission files have been stored in the Grange building. Johnson said that the folks who are part of the Preservation Society are trying to raise funds for maintaining the building.

Anti-Dumping Ordinance – Signage and next steps

Smith mentioned an idea about a signs that read, “Please do not litter” to be placed around town. Fish & Game Club young people might be able to come up with a design. Stepenuck suggested Johnson Lettering and/or State prisoners can also make signs. Stepenuck said Mt. Cresson had trash in the parking area – 79 beer cans were picked up by Stepenuck. Stepenuck also suggested the possibility of a trail camera.

Smith suggested adding a “do not litter message” on the Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD) high school sign. Goodrich will follow up on that idea.

Muster Field Tour - Easement monitor inspection results by Tracy Boisvert Director NH Office of Energy and Planning - Conservation Land Stewardship Program

There was a discussion of Boisvert’s recommendations:

- Posting “trail closed for safety” signs at end of the old hiking trail located at the edge of the eroded river bank
- Removal of the fire pit remnants to discourage this type of activity and posting against fires, camping, and trash dumping if the activity continues

- Encouraging the Town to move forward with cabling the entrance gate past the parking area to assist in controlling wheeled access into the property
- Re-install the large LCIP property sign, which has been broken off

Also discussed further was the recommendation to cable off the entrance to the trail to control wheeled access into the property. Johnson suggested a letter to the Public Works Director with the recommendations from Boisvert included in the letter. Bernard volunteered to write a letter to the Public Works Director asking for action on the cable.

There was suggested a work day to remove the fire pit as recommended by Boisvert. Stepenuck volunteered to pick up new post for the large LCIP property sign.

Motion was made by Morrison to authorize Stepenuck to expend up to \$50 for new post and quick-setting concrete to repair the post for the LCIP sign, second Bernard, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Swanzy Lake - Easement Monitor inspection results by Tracy Boisvert

There was discussion about what Boisvert found while inspecting the property. There was a question about a shed possibly being on the Town's property. Also found was some trash dumped on the east side of the lake, possibly on Town property. Some property line pins were not found.

Motion was made by Stepenuck to have the property surveyed by John Bridges and to expend up to \$500 for the survey and to mark the land at the Swanzy Lake Easement, second by Morrison, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

There was a discussion about some land for sale near to the Swanzy Lake public launch area on the south side of Swanzy Lake Road.

Trash on Sawyer's Crossing Road

Johnson said that there is a bar painted brown on land where trash is being dumped. She suggested that bar be painted white or reflective tape be placed on it so as people can see the bar and not be harmed. It was requested that Public Works pick up trash dumped on Sawyer's Crossing Road near the junction with old Route 10.

Healthy Monadnock Walk

Johnson reported that from 9 am to 11 am on Wednesday this walk will be held.

Yale Forest Commemorative Rock

The commemorative rock trail was discussed. Bernard volunteered to contact Mary Farnsworth regarding the access trail.

Conservation Files Moving

Smith noted that the Grange will now house materials belonging to the Conservation Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Aquifer Protection Ordinance

Johnson and Bernard are trying to find a date to meet with Barbara Skuly. Johnson will continue to try to plan a meeting.

Open Space Rotation

April - no meeting; May - Stepenuck; June - Smith

REPORTS

- Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee Minutes- no report
- Open Space – Johnson said she attended the March meeting and she walked the Windyhurst property with the members of the Open Space members. They were examining the land to approve the project, which did eventually go through.
- Selectmen/Municipal Committee Meetings – Smith mentioned the Survey Monkey which is being used to gather information as to why voters rejected the \$5.5 million bond request.

OTHER BUSINESS

Smith will be away April 17 through May 12, 2016. The Vice Chair will lead the meeting in May.

Smith showed an email from Ann McBride to the members of the Commission regarding the funding request already committed by the Conservation Commission including \$4,500 from the Conservation Fund.

“Soak up the Rain” webcast was mentioned by Stepenuck. It is to be held April 5, 12 noon to 1:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion** to adjourn by Morrison with a second from Stepenuck. All were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary