

Town of Swanzev, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2016.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ABSENT

Chair Wally Smith, Mike Morrison

OTHERS PRESENT

Town Administrator Michael Branley, Scott and Karl Hagstrom from Monadnock Septic Design LLC and Code Enforcement Officer Mike Jasmin

MINUTES

- Minutes of April 4, 2016 were considered. **Motion** by Johnson to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2016 as amended. There was a second from Goodrich. **Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Ketola Contracting, LLC request for a variance from Section XI.B.1.

The members of the Commission considered a plan for the Shoreland Protection Zone permit for the application of James and Kathleen Newton for a variance to permit the construction of a new house that expands the volume of the current non-conforming structure (which will be demolished). The property is located at 39 Lake Shore Road and is situated in the Residence and Shoreland Protection Districts. The property is shown at Tax Map 18, Lot 117. The Hagstrom's said the Shoreland Protection Zone Plan permit process is under review by the State of New Hampshire of Department of Environmental Services (NH DES). Jasmin noted that the existing house is in poor shape and the house ceilings are too low. There was a discussion about the impact on the Wilson Pond and the members agreed that there appeared to be minimal impact since the builder will be including silt fencing to protect the water.

Motion was made by Bernard to report to the Zoning Board of Adjustment that the Commission has no objection to construction of a new house at 39 Lake shore Road and situated in the Residence and Shoreland Protection District, given a Shoreland Protection Zone Plan, and silt fencing, as approved by NH DES. There was a second by Goodrich. Discussion continued regarding the 125 foot. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Sawyer's Crossing Road/Matthews Road erosion at the Cresson Bridge Area

A discussion was held regarding potential problems with rain gardens. Stepenuck said he received an estimate of about \$30,000 to create a design and go through the permitting process. He also noted he was told there are no Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) funds available to help with this situation. There was a discussion about water bars to divert water which is creating erosion. Another possibility is issuing an Request For Proposal (RFP) so that the Commission could consider estimates for a design to fix the problem. Branley said that between himself and Public Works Director Lee Dunham, they could meet and follow up with the Commission in regard to preparing an RFP.

Meeting Date, Monday July 4th; September 5th (Labor Day) Schedule adjustment

The Commission members agree to discuss this in June.

Roadside Cleanup Report

- 47 participants - No report about number of bags from 15 people
- 147 bags were reported as returned – Johnson said approximately 210 bags were given out
- Stepenuck estimated about 80 person hours participation
- Johnson will write and submit a letter of “thank you” to the local newspapers

Anti-Dumping Ordinance – Signage

- **High School Sign – cannot be used unless it is a school activity**
 - Can thank the Interact Club to get on the sign

Trash Dumping Sawyer’s Crossing Road Status

Johnson has not had a chance to speak to DPW Director Dunham – it was agreed to put this item on the June agenda.

Potential “To Do Items”

Motion was made by Stepenuck to pay for general expenses associated with the roadside Cleanup Day out of the Conservation Commission funds, not to exceed \$100.00, second by Goodrich, and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

- Work days for Mt. Cresson will be discussed at the June meeting.

Hamshaw Lumber Subdivision Application (one parcel into one lot of 3.165 acres and a second lot of 7.83 acres owned by Cambridge Farms of Jamesport)

Johnson said that Hamshaw needs more space and will use the land on Whittemore Farm Road to store equipment on the parcel. It was noted that the house on the smaller parcel will be torn down. There was discussion about dumping going on at the rear of the larger piece of land. There was a discussion and consensus of the members of no concerns/comments about the application, assuming no wetlands impact, and we do not see environmental issues at this time.

Conservation Scholarship Applications

Goodrich reported that two applications were received from students Alana Sprague and Alexis Perry by the deadline of April 1, 2016. He noted the Commission also received a recommendation by Mike Morrison for Alana Sprague in regard to her participation in the Fish & Game Club at Monadnock Regional High School.

Motion was made by Bernard to award scholarships to Alana Sprague in the amount of \$250.00 and to Alexis Perry in the amount of \$250.00 to come from the Conservation Fund. There was a second to the motion by Johnson. Discussion was held regarding the girls qualifications. Stepenuck proposed a letter to the Monadnock Regional High School Guidance Counselors regarding the fact that applications should come from young people who are looking for a career in an environmental field. Sprague and Perry indicated in their applications that they were not pursuing a career in environmental fields. However, the members awarded the

scholarships because the girls appear to be exceptional students and environmentally conscious. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

OLD BUSINESS

Aquifer Protection Ordinance - status

Johnson noted that in talking to Doug Brown he said that he is not in favor of an Aquifer Protection Ordinance. She said that he said it is too restrictive for land owners, which means that they cannot do whatever they want to do with their land. It was decided to move this topic to June in order to have an agreement on participation from the entire Commission.

Open Space Meeting representative from the Conservation Commission

No Open Space Committee meeting in May. Stepenuck will attend in June.

Muster Property – Cable complete

Stepenuck reported that someone made a new road around the cable to get down to the river. This person took down trees to build a new road.

Swanzey Lake LCIP property - Survey status – Stepenuck reported that there is no news to report.

Cresson Mountain

Stepenuck said he had an email from Wayne Young asking for status for proposed timber harvest at the property. Morrison was to get another opinion from Bruce Berry.

Reports

- Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee Minutes – Stepenuck said he has not received minutes. He read a letter from Barbara Skuly. The letter included a request for funds for monitoring of the Ashuelot River.

Motion was made by Stepenuck to approve \$125.00 from the Conservation Commission account to support the ARLAC river monitoring program in Swanzey. Second was made to the motion by Goodrich. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion** to adjourn by Johnson with a second from Bernard. All were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary