

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Wally Smith at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Committee Members Present: Chair Smith, Mike Morrison, Jane Johnson and Beverly Bernard. Steven Stepenuck joined the meeting at 4:05 pm.

ABSENT

Bob Goodrich

OTHERS PRESENT

Rob Hitchcock with SVE Associates

MINUTES

- Minutes of May 2, 2016 were considered. **Motion** by Morrison to approve the Minutes of May 2, 2016 as amended stating that Stepenuck did report about the progress in surveying Swanzey Lake and the Muster Field. There was a second from Johnson. **Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Main Street reconstruction

- Wetland issue – Hitchcock spoke about creating a detention basin to divert storm water from Main Street. He said it will require a Shoreland Water Quality Protection permit. The basin will be located on Swanzey Township land and an easement is being pursued. Hitchcock noted that Historical Resources is waiting for an archeological report which may cause delays in beginning construction. There was an old mill on the site where the basin will be. The basin will be about 4 feet deep, and it may become a wetland in the future.

Motion was made by Morrison to authorize the Chair to sign the Wetlands Permit Application for creating a detention basin for the Main Street project. There was second to the motion by Bernard, and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Cresson Bridge Project (Road erosion Bridge area)

Meeting results, May 19th; State Representatives, Dunham, Branley, Stepenuck
Stepenuck summarized the meeting for the Commission members. He said that the State of New Hampshire contractor will be staging equipment for the scour project at the Cresson Bridge parking lot which is Town owned land. Stepenuck said that the Town could ask for drainage control and a rain garden in lieu of rent for using the site. Smith suggested that the Commission keep informed as to the planning for the project. The Commission unanimously decided that they want to continue to be informed about the State plan and that the Town should have some leverage about the plans for erosion control and the Commission would like to be included in that planning.

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

Johnson noted that on June 27th a meeting is being held in Jaffrey regarding the County Nursing Home. Morrison suggested Thursday June 30th for the July meeting and it was agreed to that date for July. The

members also agreed that instead of a meeting on Labor Day, the regular meeting of the Commission will be held on Thursday September 1, 2016 instead.

Anti-Dumping Ordinance

- Signage – Morrison said a student is willing to help out with signage but she is busy right now with graduation plans.
- Other ideas – Smith suggested Conservation Boundary Easement sign. Bernard suggested something more pleasant – take photos”, leave nothing but footprints or “Help Keep Swanzey Clean. Please take your trash with you” or “Please take all trash with you when leaving this area.”

David & Debbie Johnston/White’s Driveline Service Multi- Tenant Application

The property was discussed and its location adjacent to the South Branch of the Ashuelot River. The request is for a print & promotion distributorship & marketing consultant business in the house, sales of used trucks, equipment and parts in garage, and auto repair in garage. One concern of the Commission is the possibility of leakage of oil and gasoline and other chemicals from equipment and car storage – how will they prevent leakage into the South Branch of the Ashuelot River or into ground water.

Sponsorship of student to 4-H Camp

The members discussed the possibility of contributing \$350.00 for Emily Read to attend the Camp. Morrison recommended Read as a good student and worthy of support from the Commission.

Motion was made by Morrison to support Emily Read at the 4-H Camp in Berlin, NH with an expenditure of \$350.00. There was a second by Stepenuck. Discussion: Johnson asked Emily’s age. Morrison said she is fifteen and said she will be turning 16 while there. All were in favor.

Motion passed. Johnson asked that Morrison invite Read to come to a meeting and do a presentation for us and possibly members of the public about her experiences with the camp.

OLD BUSINESS

Aquifer Protection initiative – Water Protection Committee

Discussion was held regarding the make-up of the Committee.

Motion was made by Bernard to name Beverly Bernard representing Eastfield Crossing, Jane Johnson representing the Planning Board, Stephen Stepenuck representing the Conservation Commission, Citizen Larry Cummings, Barbara Skuly representing ARLAC, and Sylvester Karasinski representing the Selectmen, advised by Andrew Madison from Granite State Rural Water Association. There was a second by Morrison. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

The date for the first meeting was tentatively set for June 16, 2016 at the Town Hall.

Site off Talbot Hill Road

There was a discussion about the parcel of land off Talbot Hill Road that has been approved for building sites and that has wetlands. Stepenuck said the site is the watershed for Swanzey Lake. Wetlands permits were granted and they are about to expire. Morrison said he didn’t think that the owner of the property would be building houses on the land at this time. Stepenuck said that the Swanzey Lake residents might be interested in the plans. Morrison will follow up with the owner of the property.

Open Space Rotation

- June – Stepenuck – June 8, 2016 – Item for discussion will be Windyhurst Farm Partnership.
- July - Smith

Conservation Commission Accounts

Smith passed out Treasurer's report showing the balance in Conservation Commission accounts.

Schedule Work Day

- Trail Maintenance - Smith suggested hiring someone to maintain the trail. Morrison suggested the possibility of Trail Wrights group getting involved as volunteers. The Commission decided to invite the Trail Wrights to meet with the Commission to discuss further.

Muster property lines and Swanzey Lake property lines were discussed

Stepenuck spoke about finding the boundary pins at Swanzey Lake Town-owned property. He also spoke about surveyor John Bridges' report about boundary markers found and that a privately owned shed has been built infringing on the Town-owned land. Stepenuck suggested getting Code Enforcement involved. The concern is that the owner of the shed has taken possession of Town-owned land on the Lake. In another section, a wire fence has been placed onto Town property. Stepenuck said that another \$500 will cover what still needs to be done by the surveyor. He noted that the State of New Hampshire is responsible for requesting the corrections for boundary lines.

Motion was made by Stepenuck to expend \$500.00 to hire John Bridges to survey and validate the property lines on both East Shore Road and West Shore Road for Swanzey Lake outlet property with adjoining neighbors and to mark the lines appropriately. Second was made by Morrison. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Cresson Mountain Timber Harvest Proposal

Bruce Berry inspection/recommendations - The Commission decided to table any activity on this proposal for now.

Reports

- Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee Minutes – Smith passed out minutes from ARLAC from Chairman Barbara Skuly
- Open Space – Windyhurst project report was provided
- Municipal Committee (no meeting)
- Selectmen – will be meeting Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at the East Swanzey Fire Station
- Drug bust report from Chief Thomas R. DeAngelis was passed out
- Smith passed out Request for Nominations to Board/Committees showing that many committees are in need of volunteers

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion** to adjourn by Bernard with a second from Johnson. All were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary