

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Conservation Commission Meeting**  
Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2016

*Note: Minutes are subject to review, correction, and approval by the Commission. Review, correction, and approval of minutes generally occur at the next regularly 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 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Committee Members Present: Chair Smith, Bob Goodrich, Mike Morrison, Jane Johnson and Beverly Bernard. Steve Stepenuck joined the meeting 5:04 pm.

**ABSENT**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT**

None

**MINUTES**

- Minutes of September 1, 2016 were considered. **Motion** by Johnson to approve the Minutes of September 1, 2016. There was a second from Goodrich. **Motion passed.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Public Input** – None

**Water Protection Committee** – Interested parties can contact Johnson or Bernard via email for more information.

**Video Camera in designated areas**

There was a discussion about what possibly could be done for the Riley property where unleashed dogs and public indecency are occurring. The Committee agreed that it is an enforcement problem for the police since there are already ordinances for leashing dogs and litter/trash.

**Grange Building Restoration**

The building was discussed and work that has been done on the building was also noted. There was a discussion about conservation versus preservation. The Committee did agree to support the preservation of the building and monitor future developments.

**West and California Street - Junk dropped**

There was a discussion about another situation where enforcement is the issue. The Town has an ordinance in place regarding litter/trash and the police should be contacted. There was brief discussion about using county prisoners for cleanup and possibly for trail maintenance. The Committee decided to table the idea until there is some experience with use of prisoners by Code Enforcement. The question also arose about the liability of the Town should a prisoner get hurt and that will be researched before further action is taken.

### **Swanzey Lake Property- Survey Results/Border resolution**

It was noted that the property owner agreed to allow a surveyor to try to locate the property line pins. John Bridges was to perform the survey. Stepenuck has agreed to follow up with Bridges but has not been able to do so as of this meeting.

### **Muster property- Schedule "To Do" items**

Smith spoke about signage for the property and about large stones being placed by DPW to prevent cars from going down to the river. The members agreed to follow up some time in the spring. Stepenuck said the post has been set and he will be placing the sign stating that the land is conservation land.

### **Autumn Monitoring Report - Honey Hill - "To-do"**

Smith spoke about an email from Steve Walker in need of monitoring at conserved land and filling out the appropriate reports based on a walk-through of the land. Bernard looked up the State website, found the appropriate LCIP monitoring form and emailed the form to the members for consideration. Morrison has agreed to walk Honey Hill and do that monitoring report.

### **Wetlands for sale Carlton Bridge and South Road**

The Committee discussed both parcels.

Morrison **moved** to recommend to the Selectmen the acquisition by the Town of Swanzey both the Carlton Bridge and South Road parcels of land for public access and Bernard seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

### **2016 Annual Report**

Smith asked Stepenuck to put together the report for this year and Stepenuck agreed.

### **Cresson Trail Maintenance**

Stepenuck said there was no trash on the parking lot. He said he thought someone is helping out with the area.

### **Marble & Stone Company Extension of Parking Lot**

There was a discussion about an extension of a parking lot which appears not to have been approved by the Planning Board. Smith said he would follow up with Code Enforcement about whether a permit was issued for that project. There was also a discussion about the approval for Arlington Paving/BDM expansion of their business by the Planning Board.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Anti-Dumping Ordinance – Signage**

Morrison said he got a text from the sign maker that the draft of a sign has been drawn up for Committee consideration. Morrison said he would pass it along once received.

#### **Expense/Available Funds**

Smith passed out a report on the Conservation Commission funds. Bernard asked for ideas for the kinds of things the Conservation Commission money can be spent on. Scholarships were discussed and removal of invasive species which has been done in the past. Bernard suggested getting young people

involved in Trail maintenance and perhaps to provide a small stipend to them to do the work. Morrison said Bob Spoerl might be willing to educate young people as to how to build a good forest trail. Other entities suggested were Cheshire County Conservation and UNH Extension.

## **REPORTS**

### **Ashuelot River Advisory Committee**

No report

### **Municipal Committee**

Smith noted that this Committee has been disbanded by the Board of Selectmen. Members briefly discussed the Pine Street property.

### **Adams/Windyhurst Update**

Smith passed out an email from Stacy Gambrel saying there was no news on the project.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Cheshire County Conservation District**

Smith said that their annual meeting will be held October 25, 2016 at 5 pm at the Keene Country Club.

### **Alternative Energy Systems**

Smith reminded the members that NH Fish and Game will be hosting the workshop in Concord on Thursday, October 13, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:15 pm.

### **Whitcomb Hall Rental Agreement**

Smith passed out a copy for review by the members.

### **November 12, 2016 is the NHACC annual meeting & conference**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There was a **motion** to adjourn by Johnson with a second from Goodrich. All were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary