

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Open Space Committee (OSC)**  
Minutes – February 10, 2016

*Note: Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Committee.  
Review and approval of minutes generally takes place on the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.*

**Present at Meeting:** Chair Ames called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Victoria Reck Ames, Jeanne Thieme, Karen Sielke, Theresa DiLuzio, Sharon Greatbatch

**Also present:** Beverly Bernard (Conservation Commission member)

**Absent:** Selectmen's Representative Ken Colby, alternate Deb Crowder

**Minutes** of January 23, 2016 planning retreat: **Motion** to approve by Thieme. Second by DiLuzio. **Motion carries.**

AGENDA ITEMS

**Matthews Road project report** Ames reported that, in response to the OSC's request that the Board of Selectmen consider expending \$17,900 from the Conservation Land Acquisition capital reserve account towards the easement project, pursuant to RSA 41:14-a, the Selectmen have voted to conduct two public hearings, and to request input from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. As proposed, the Town would hold a back-up interest in the easement, Ames said. OSC members reviewed the portion of the SCC's February 1, 2016 meeting minutes pertaining to discussion of the proposed easement. (Greatbatch and Ames were present during the February 1, 2016 SCC discussion.) Ames said that Town Administrator Michael Branley helped facilitate the SCC's discussion; Branley advised that the ultimate approval of the expenditure is the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen.

**Windyhurst project** Ames reported that Monadnock Conservancy project manager Stacy Gambrel presented an overview of the project to the SCC at the February 1, 2016 meeting; Thieme and Ames were in attendance. OSC members reviewed the project map and description, as well as the portion of minutes from the SCC's February 1, 2016 meeting pertaining to discussion of the proposed easement. Members received an OSC project evaluation form, and agreed to visit and evaluate the parcel as the first item of the March 9 meeting agenda. DiLuzio questioned the easement value, relative to other appraisals in the vicinity. Ames will check with Gambrel. SCC members have asked Gambrel for monthly project updates; OSC members would like to also be informed when appropriate.

**2016 Old Home Day** In response to an invitational e-mail message from the Old Home Day Committee, members discussed participation and how to best support the town event. Members agreed in their preference not to march in the parade or host an informational booth, as members feel that these activities no longer reach fresh audiences. Members endorsed Ames's desire to have the Swanzey oxen available at the Potash Bowl paddock for interaction with children. "Swanzey Rural Character" buttons will be available; existing banners will identify the oxen as "Swanzey's Ambassadors of Open Space."

**New park in west Swanzey** Members reiterated interest in contributing to the celebration that will mark the completion of the park. DiLuzio said she will keep the group informed.

*Town of Swanzey Open Space Committee  
February 10, 2016 meeting*

*DRAFT minutes*

**Whitcomb Hall anniversary** Members reiterated interest in contributing to the 100-year anniversary celebration. Greatbatch said she will keep the group informed.

**Donation from OSC Non-Restricted Account (funds given in memory of Jean Blood) to the Ashuelot River Pony Club** Ames said that all paperwork necessary to release the funds has been executed. Members concurred with DiLuzio's request that Jean Blood be recognized when the scholarships are distributed, and the OSC be kept posted.

**2016 Planning retreat wrap-up** Ames reported that, per OSC request, she delivered thank-you flowers to host Susan Karalekas (Bridges Inn). Members shared the card Karalekas wrote in response to the OSC gift.

**Aquifer protection** Bernard said that the Conservation Commission is considering updating the 1999 maps and work of the Aquifer Protection Task Force; ultimately, the update may lead to development of an aquifer protection ordinance.

**Schedule of future meetings** Members set March 9, May 11 and July 13 as the next meeting dates. Members agreed that generally they could be available during the alternate months on an as-needed basis.

#### FOR INFORMATION

**Conservation Easement Amendment Policy** Ames distributed to members a copy of the Monadnock Conservancy's easement amendment policy, noting the section of the document that speaks to the need for the ability to amend easements in the future, and the circumstances that might provoke such amendments.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** by Greatbatch to adjourn; Thieme seconded the motion and all were in favor. **Motion carries.** Adjournment occurred at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Reck Ames  
Recording Secretary

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, March 9, 5:00. Meeting to begin with a site walk to inspect the property situated at Map 72 Lot 43 (Windyhurst Farm Partnership). Meet and park behind the Mold Pro building (36 Denman Thompson Highway). Following the site walk, the meeting will continue at Town Hall.