

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2013

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

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Vice Chair Robert Goodrich. Committee Members Present: Richard Dell'Erba, Michael Morrison, Theresa DiLuzio, Gary Coburn.

Absent: Deb Crowder, Stephen Stepenuck, Jane B. Johnson

Others Present:

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: The members considered the Minutes from January 7, 2013. **Motion** by Morrison to accept the minutes of January 7th, seconded by Coburn, all were in favor, ***motion passed.***

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Wilson Pond setback** – discussion was held about the possibility of creating a postcard to send out to residents in Town in support of maintaining the 125 foot wetland setback. DiLuzio asked about doing some posters for the polls at the vote by the Town. Morrison said he spoke to Dave Niels at the New Hampshire Department Environmental Services (NH DES) who will write a Letter to the Editor regarding the NH DES support for maintaining the 125 foot wetlands setback. He is a Water Scientist from NH DES. The group also discussed the possibility of adding some data from Steve Stepenuck who had made a presentation for the Planning Board. Coburn mentioned that the Keene Sentinel newspaper had a notice about the Wilson Pond vote. DiLuzio offered to get the totals for the routes of households in Swanzey and get them to Dell'Erba so he will know how many postcards to have printed up. Morrison **moved** to engage Tiffany Mannion to create the postcard, and print and mail postcards, spending no more than \$1,000, seconded by Coburn, all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

Theresa said that she has asked Town Administrator O'Keefe to add verbiage to the Voter's Guide that states the Conservation Commission is against the change in the wetland setback, if the Planning Board does recommend it. It reads "as proposed" by the Planning Board. DiLuzio and Coburn and Dell'Erba will be attending the Deliberative Session February 5, 2013 to voice the position of the Conservation Commission in support of the 125 foot setback.

2. **Discuss Bosworths** – The Bosworths received an Equitable Waiver from the Planning Board for the 125 foot setback requirement for their room built on a deck that is next to Wilson Pond. No further action by the Conservation Commission.
3. **Wetlands permit for 197 West Swanzey Rd.** The Conservation Commission has been notified that the land owner at 197 West Swanzey Rd. has requested a wetlands permit to build

additional access to the property.

4. **Route 10 Bridge replacement** - in Westport area. The planning by the State of New Hampshire is in last stages. Stepenuck had suggested a boat ramp for the river as part of the plan. An application for dredge and fill has been approved. The State has provided all the necessary forms. NH DES has approved it so there isn't anything for the Conservation Commission to do at this point.
5. **Mt. Caesar Buckthorn** - Buckthorn is an invasive species. Someone from the Vegetation Control Department of Bay State Forestry is giving an educational talk on Feb. 12, 2013 in Troy. DiLuzio suggested that the committee invite that person to come to Swanzey to give their talk as well. There is Buckthorn at the intersection of Route 32 and Sawmill Rd. as well. DiLuzio asked about planning a site walk with Steve Roberge and Dell'Erba said he would go. DiLuzio is going to email prospective times for the site walk and suggest March or April for an education visit at the Conservation Committee meeting.
6. **Views of Honey Hill and Mt. Cresson - need trees to be cut back.** Morrison suggested that Bay State Forestry take a look to see what needs to be done. Morrison **moved** to communicate with the Board of Selectmen and ask if they would be interested in Bay State looking at the feasibility of doing an improvement cut on Mt. Cresson, seconded by Coburn, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**
 - a. Views at Honey Hill – a discussion was held about clearing Honey Hill to enhance the view. DiLuzio reported it will cost \$500 to have logger David Roy clear the crest. The committee will have to get approval from Victoria Barlow who is owner of the property in order to move ahead. Coburn said the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) cleared around the beacons at the top of Mt. Cresson and Mt. Caesar. Morrison **moved** to approve the expense of \$500 for logger David Roy to cut the trees back in order to improve the view, contingent on the property owner's approval, seconded by Goodrich, all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **3 Houghton Point Application of Sand at Wilson Pond** – the owner(s) of property at 3 Houghton Point had 6 cubic yards of sand dumped on their property next to Wilson Pond in October 2010. Goodrich passed out notification paperwork provided by the NH DES for the committee to review. The notification paperwork asks the committee to sign that they do not have objections to the sand project. An after-the-fact permit may be issued on the basis of the notification being signed. Morrison asked if the committee wanted to go look at the piles of sand. He pointed out that the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau has signed off on the project. However, the sand may not go beyond the high water line according to regulations. The owners did not get the necessary permits from NH DES in compliance with State rules. NH DES has asked that the Conservation Commission respond by January 31, 2013, but the commission didn't get the notification form until February 4, 2013 (today). DiLuzio suggested that the NH DES has to be contacted regarding the dates being past and inquire if a new notification has to be completed. Morrison will contact NH DES about the notification.

2. **Reports** from ARLAC, Open Space Committee, and SWRPC Natural Resources Com - no reports at this time
3. **Michael J Pratt Pond Application 617 West. Swanzey Rd.** - ponds are already in. Another after-the-fact application is being requested. Goodrich said that Pratt has to file paperwork and the commission will be getting that paperwork to review.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. The commission helps support young folks to go to conservation camps. The committee has an application from a young person to attend one of the camps. Morrison said he would prefer to see a young person apply who hadn't already attended one of the camps. The Commission will consider the youngster if there are no others in Swanzey who have applied.

Adjournment – **Move** to adjourn by DiLuzio, seconded by Coburn with all in favor. **Motion passed.**
Adjournment at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary