Swanzey Conservation Commission [SCC] Minutes
March 5, 2012
4:00 p.m. at town hall

[Note: Minutes are not final until approved by the Commission, usually at its next meeting.]

Call to order by chair Day at 4:10 p.m.
Stepenuck agreed to be secretary pro-tempore.
SCC members present: Gary Coburn, Deb Crowder, Michael Day, Ric Dell'Erba, Theresa DiLuzio, Bob Goodrich, Mike Morrison, Steve Stepenuck
Leaving ca. 5:20: Morrison; Leaving ca. 6:10: DiLuzio;
Arriving ca. 5:30: Crowder
Absent: Jane Johnson

1. Old business:

(A) Time and date of meeting: Discussion continued from past meetings. Since the 4:00 p.m. first-Monday time works for current members, and the Commission is currently at full strength, the majority decided to leave that, even though it would make it difficult for persons with normal daytime working hours to make meetings.

(B) Wilson Pond Buffer Petition: Petition in effect is to reduce the buffer for primary structures from the shoreline from 125 ft to 50 ft. However the Voter Summary published did not mention that the 50-ft constitutes a reduction from the current town ordinance. [The warrant article as published in the town report mentions no numbers.] Discussion followed relative to how to educate voters at this late date as regards the significance of this issue.

Decisions: [1] Ask Deb Crowder to please make a sign to be displayed [by SCC members] near the polling place. [Hours per member listed below.] Sign to request people to please support Wilson Pond's quality, the CC, and the PB by voting "No" on Amendment 4 to Article 9...

[2] Chair Day will write a letter to the editor of the Keene Sentinel asking voters to please vote "No" on Amendment 4 to Article 9, re zoning amendments, and emphasizing that both the SCC and the Planning Board are against this petition.

[3] Individuals are welcome to write personal letters.

Individuals offered to attend the sign approximately as follows:
8—9 a.m.,11 –1 p.m.: Mike M.; 9—11: open; 12:30—2:30: Theresa; 2:30—4:00: open; 4-6: open; 6—7: Michael D.

Moved [Stepenuck] and seconded [Morrison] to implement the above plan. Vote [4:37 p.m.]: 6-0-0-2.

2. Permits and Applications:

a. No new applications received.

2. Permits and Applications, continued:

b. Correspondence from NH-DES re Warmac Rd. and Cobble Hill Rd bridges. Also Alteration of Terrain permit AoT 0369 granted to Putnam Realty for gravel excavation in Westport.

3. Groundwater protection: groundwater reclassification document from NH-DES. Stepenuck had emailed this to SCC members, with suggestions that it looked important vs. SCC's charge, and perhaps the Groundwater Protection Task Force of several years ago had already done much of the work. Mike Morrison agreed to try to digest and summarize the document [printed out by Sara today] for the April meeting.

Bringing in a speaker from DES to help was discussed.

4. Saving Special Places Conference, April 14, at John Stark Regional High School: Steve and Ric expressed interest in attending this, and will communicate with each other after the meeting, with the understanding that if they go, reimbursement from SCC's budget would likely be requested.

5. Roadside cleanup:

a. Date: April 21 or 28, 2012, more likely the latter, so that the high school will have been in session the week before the cleanup. Goodrich will check at MRHS vs. vacation dates.

b. Chair: Bob Goodrich.

c. Bags: there appear to be ~ 375 in town hall. Theresa[?] will check with Lee Dunham re getting some more, so that we have ~ 500.

d. Map: Deb and Sara can hopefully provide an old town map to be used for groups to choose their road sections. [A copy of the annotated map goes to the DPW, so they know where to pick up bags.]

e. Gloves: Uncertain, but consensus seemed to be to purchase some for giving away, but not to advertise free gloves. Moved [Stepenuck] seconded [Morrison]: buy a few dozen gloves, to be given away as needed on cleanup day. 6-0-0-2. Ric mentioned possibility of inexpensive coated gloves, which would be much better. Gary will check with Hamshaw re possibility of donations. [If anyone buys a bunch, please notify the other members, or the cleanup or CC chair.]

f. Town hall: Someone to stay in town hall to distribute bags, answer questions, be available for emergencies, keep building open for restroom use, etc.: Person to be determined.

g. Food, drink, etc.: Discussed, but not settled. Theresa will check with Dunkin Donuts re possibility of donating Munchkins and/or coffee.

h. Handouts: Stepenuck will try to dig up old ones as models for this year's edition.

6. 2102-2013:

a. Nomination and Election of officers:

(1) chair: Deb Crowder

(2) vice-chair: Bob Goodrich

6. 2102-2013:

a. Nomination and Election of officers, continued:

(3) Secretary: to be hired

Vote: 6-0-0-2.

b. Plans for 2012:

Not addressed, due to lack of time.

7. Reports from representatives:

a. Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee [ARLAC]: The committee recently reviewed plans from the City of Keene to continue "tax ditch maintenance" on waterbodies like Tannery Brook. Stepenuck urged members to be on the lookout for a continuation/resumption of clear cutting and bank scalping in Swanzey, for example along the banks of Ash Swamp Brook.

Moved [Crowder], seconded Stepenuck] to authorize Deb to write a letter to the Keene City Manager and City planner to please do no "ditch maintenance" within Swanzey. Vote: 5-0-0-3 [Morrison and DiLuzio had had to leave.]

b. Open Space Committee [OSC]: postponed to next month, due to lack of time

c. SouthWest Regional Planning Commission-Natural Resources Committee [SWRPC-NRC]: no report, since Morrison had had to leave for another commitment. Postponed to next month.

8. Minutes of February meeting: Approved 4-0-1-3.

9. Other business:

a. Resolution: Moved [Stepenuck]; seconded [Goodrich?] That the Commission express its most sincere gratitude to departing chair Michael Day for his generous and faithful service to the Commission and to the town. Vote: unanimous, and by acclamation.

b. Energy committee: Stepenuck reminded that the matter of a town Energy Committee, or some attention to energy considerations had been discussed, but would have to be postponed to next meeting [April].

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Stepenuck

Stephen Stepenuck, secretary pro-tem