

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2014

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 Thieme called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Jeanne M. Thieme, Bob McElvey, Beverly Bernard, Theresa DiLuzio, Karen Sielke and Selectmen's Representative Kenneth P. Colby, Jr. Mary Farnsworth joined the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Absent: Deb Crowder, Sharon Greatbatch, Alternate Judith Hildebrandt

Others Present:

Minutes:

The minutes from January 18, 2014 were not considered.

AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion regarding Deliberative Session vote

Thieme explained that during the Town's Deliberative Session money was taken away from the Land Acquisition Account and given to Whitcomb Hall fund. And while it was disappointing, it was good to have the money go to a good cause. She noted that the vote was very close.

Indoor Walk/Talk

DiLuzio discussed the planned indoor educational program, the first of which will be about Secrets of Old Cellar Holes. This topic is sponsored through the New Hampshire Humanities Council and the OSC will need to pay for mileage costs of about \$34.00 and a \$50.00 application fee. Adair Mulligan will be giving the talk. The talk is not Swanzey specific. Thieme suggested a map of the cellar holes of Swanzey be created and installed on the wall at Town Hall for reference during the presentation by Mulligan.

DiLuzio also suggested an outdoor walk exploring cellar holes which might be planned with Tanya Krajcik, archaeologist from the N.H. Division of Historical Resources.

DiLuzio informed the committee that October 22th and 29th were dates available for Mulligan to do her presentation on old cellar holes; these dates are Wednesdays. DiLuzio pointed to a list of requirements of the NH Humanities Council: register at least 10 weeks ahead, and be open to the public, among others. Thieme suggested the possibility of using Whitcomb Hall for the presentation but it is unknown if Whitcomb Hall would be ready for use by October of 2014.

Motion was made by Farnsworth to plan for a presentation on Wednesday October 22, 2014 by Adair Mulligan at Town Hall with approved expenditures of no more than \$150.00 and authorize DiLuzio to make the arrangements. The motion was seconded by Sielke and all were in favor.

Motion passed.

Withdrawal from ZBA review of proposed Sirois Farm

Bernard and Colby referred to the fact that Mr. Sirois isn't going to build anything on his land so he doesn't need a variance or special exception at this time.

Outdoor winter education walk/talk at Dickinson Park

McKelvey agreed to Captain this event and suggested inviting Wendy Ward to talk about animal tracks on the walk; discussion on how to promote the event - it could be snowshoe and/or winter hike on a Saturday or Sunday. Publicity suggested: Facebook, signboard at Recycling Center, poster at Gomarlo's, poster at the post office, Sentinel and the Monadnock Shopper press releases, signboard at Town Hall. A further discussion was held regarding parking for the event and it was suggested that parking on one side of Pine Street might be appropriate since there is access to the Rail Trail and from the trail to Dickinson Park. Colby suggested that McKelvey check in with Police Chief DeAngelis so that the police are aware of cars on Pine Street during the event.

Discussion was held regarding a date for the event and it was decided to have the event on March 8, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thieme agreed to take care of the press release. Bernard will post materials on Facebook when they become available. Farnsworth will design a poster. Farnsworth has photos of folks on snowshoes that she will share.

There was a **motion** by DiLuzio to fund a winter hike to be planned by McKelvey for March 8, 2014 with a maximum expenditure of \$50.00 for the event. There was a second to the motion from Sielke and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Update on hiking trail project – Farnsworth, Sielke, DiLuzio

Farnsworth and Sielke reported that they reviewed current maps, checking for accuracy, available parking, and directions to the various trailheads. Farnsworth also recommended using a postcard to promote the trails with heading: "Explore Swanzey". A discussion was held regarding adding Dickinson Park and Mt. Caesar to list which includes Honey Hill, Tippin' Rock, Mount Cresson, and Carroll's Hill. Postcard size is 5 ½ by 8 ½". DiLuzio agreed to get the cost figures from the post office and from GemGraphics for creation of the postcard. The idea is to mail the postcard to residents of the Town so that they not only learn about the hiking trails available in Town, but also keep track of the trails they have visited.

Facebook page discussion and update

Bernard reviewed the issue raised by the technical support people of the Town regarding security for web-based pages. Colby said that the security issues are so remote that it is a non-issue. A discussion was held about the difficulty in locating "Town of Swanzey Open Space Committee" because the expectation is that the page begins with the Town's name. Bernard agreed to remove "Town of" from the Facebook, so that it reads, "Swanzey Open Space Committee". She also agreed to "friend" Colby and insure that the page is a public page. The goal of having a Facebook page is to make OSC events widely known in the community and encourage participation.

Discuss use of funds from Welcome to Swanzey sign and Rural Character

This topic was tabled until the March 2014 meeting.

Update on bench idea/expense re Jean Blood's donations

Greatbatch was not in attendance and was therefore unable to report on a price for a bench in memory of Jean Blood. Colby suggested the OSC work with Jeff Goller to coordinate plans for the West Swanzey Park if the intention was to place the memorial bench in that park by the river. Discussion was held on granite versus wood for the bench. Consensus was that granite would last longer and be impervious to carving up by vandals. DiLuzio offered to check on pricing with D & M Monument.

From Emily Hague re: trail maintenance up on Carroll's Hill and Tippin' Rock

Thieme informed the members about the offer by Emily Hague for trail maintenance assistance. Thieme mentioned that Lindsey Tolman, the owner of Carroll's Hill, prefers that no trail be created on Carroll's Hill. DiLuzio suggested that the Kibler property might be better suited to receive assistance for trail maintenance and offered to speak to Hague about that possibility instead of assistance with Carroll's Hill and Tippin' Rock.

Visiting Deb on Fridays and Saturdays

Thieme reported that Deb Crowder is doing very well and is home Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings and would welcome visitors. It was suggested that Larry Crowder be phoned ahead of time if you plan to visit. Thieme noted that Deb Crowder's term on the OSC is up this year in March.

Thieme made a **motion** to make Deb Crowder an alternate and DiLuzio seconded it. All were in favor except Colby who abstained. **Motion passed.**

Jeffrey Smith Farm Scholarship

Thieme discussed recommendations for a Swanzey student to apply for a farm scholarship program. Colby suggested that a letter be written to Jed Butterfield, Principal at Monadnock Regional High School, that a deserving resident is being sought. Bernard offered to contact an information source about the Jeffrey P. Smith Farm scholarship program as to what age group the scholarship is aimed at.

Conservation Commission requests

Re: Conservation Commission requests for help on projects – the OSC is happy to help anyone. As has been customary with anyone seeking help from the OSC a representative needs to contact Chair Jeanne Thieme to be put on the agenda for the next OSC meeting at which time the project can be proposed and the OSC given the specific tasks being requested, with dates, time, etc. There is a need for the entire committee to discuss and vote on a plan to help another group during an OSC meeting. Colby stressed that any member from any committee or group who is assigned the task of requesting OSC assistance needs to represent the entire committee and not an individual agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

DiLuzio **moved** to adjourn, and Sielke seconded, all were in favor. **Motion passed.** Adjournment at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary