

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2013

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 Jeanne Thieme called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Present were Chairman Jeanne Thieme, Bob McKelvey, Judy Hildebrandt, Beverly Bernard, Sharon Greatbatch, Theresa DiLuzio and Alternate Mary Farnsworth (sitting in for Deb Crowder).

Absent: Deb Crowder, Paula Shank

1. History - Our Mission statement/Job description - Jeanne discussed how the committee has worked in the past, mostly by getting to know the landowners on a personal level and understanding their interests. Events that celebrate the land and rural character of the town work well getting townspeople interested in conserving land. McKelvey asked about land that is not well known as being conserved and how to make it accessible to townspeople. Thieme said that the landowners need to approve who and what uses their land. Thieme also mentioned that the Monadnock Conservancy pushes for public access to conserved land.

2. Committee Structure – Thieme provided a questionnaire for members to take home, fill out and bring back to the March meeting or send via email to Sharon and/or Thieme. Thieme introduced some ideas for getting extra help from friends and others who are not members of the committee.

3. Vision for 2013 – Thieme led a discussion on possible projects for the year including: Town's Open Space Plan in coordination with the Master Plan Update; the West Swanzey Park Development; and possibly some research around Yale Forest. Farnsworth volunteered to work with the Planning Board on the Open Space Plan portion of the Master Plan Update. Hildebrandt said she would work with Farnsworth, and DiLuzio is also willing to help. Booklet "Plan for the Protection of Open Space for the Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire" was passed out among the members. Thieme suggested that Town Planner Sara Carbonneau speak to the group about the update process. Farnsworth suggested Farnsworth meet with Carbonneau and then pass along what she learns from Carbonneau to the rest of the committee.

Bernard mentioned that there is a new Main Street Advisory Committee being formed by the Town's Board of Selectmen and perhaps the Open Space Committee should keep in touch with them in case the committee can be of use to the planning process for the West Swanzey area.

McKelvey asked about the West Swanzey Park development and if the OSC could get involved. Thieme said that there hasn't been any direction yet from the Board of Selectmen.

Greatbatch asked that something be added to the Mission Statement about the fact that the committee represents all the citizens of the Town. Hildebrandt suggested using verbiage such as "established at the request of the Town". Greatbatch also suggested the Mission Statement start with "Your OSC protects Swanzey's rural character by.....etc"

4. Community Involvement –

- Hikes
 - Full Moon – Summer
 - Fall
 - Winter
- Events
 - Road side cleanup with Conservation Commission – April
 - Old Home Days - parade and booth - July
 - Homecoming at Monadnock – Sept./Oct.
 - Walk for Animals at the Humane Society - Fall
 - Speakers at Town Hall
- Communication
- Member's Wish Lists:
 - OSC visit the land under easement in a public education way to educate the general public.
 - Update Mission Statement and create visibility for it
 - Pay for Speakers - part of hikes or at Town Hall
 - Publicize Hikes - ask landowners if they have some distinguishing natural features that they were willing to introduce to the public
 - Revisit Oxen - meet & greet
 - Mascot Idea - for kids
 - Create Booklet of postcards of easements
 - Create public master email list - and maintain it
 - Yale Forest or Rail Trail Mountain Bike/Hike
 - Rail Trail needs historic signs
 - Design a master calendar for us and for the website
 - Collaborate with other committees like Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC), Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Scouts, Schools and Fish & Game
 - Examples: canoe trip, and roadside clean up
 - Example: Scout projects
 - Identify volunteer opportunities

Thieme left the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Greatbatch continued the meeting until adjournment.

Adjournment: Hildebrandt made a **motion** to adjourn, Greatbatch seconded, all were in favor. **Motion passed.** Adjournment at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly Bernard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: March 13, 2013