

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – April 9, 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, Sharon Greatbatch, Karen Sielke, Alternate Victoria Reck Ames and Selectmen’s Representative Kenneth P. Colby, Jr. Mary Farnsworth joined the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Absent: Alternate Deb Crowder, Alternate Judith Hildebrandt

Others Present: Mike Morrison from the Swanzey Conservation Commission

Minutes: Thieme **moved** to accept the minutes from March 19, 2014 and Sielke seconded the motion and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome new Alternate

Victoria Reck Ames (circleofthesunnh@gmail.com) was welcomed to the committee by the Chair and the members.

2. Potential project

Discussion occurred about possible acquisition of a conservation easement for a few pieces of land in the area. Thieme also spoke about help offered by Stacey Gambrel from the Monadnock Conservancy for projects of this nature.

3. Reports/Feedback/Updates

- a. **Trail postcard** – Sielke spoke about the postcard to be sent to residents and provided a sample for the members to review. The back of the postcard will have the list of Trails open to the public and directions how to get to them and where to park. There were a few spelling errors noted and Thieme asked the members to review copies of the postcard and send their edits to Sielke and Farnsworth. Thieme asked Sielke to return with a final copy of the postcard including the front photo for the members to review and approve at the next meeting.
- b. **Rail Trail Awareness Day** – August 2, 2014 was decided as the date. Greatbatch is in charge of planning and McElvey and Sielke have volunteered to help out.
- c. **Cellar Hole Talk** - Oct. 22, 2014 - DiLuzio said the event will be on the Town calendar and Bernard offered to keep in touch with Coleen Birmingham so that OSC events will be publicized on the Town home page each month.
- d. **C&S Event** - May 18, 2014 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – will be held at their business location. Sielke will help from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. DiLuzio will help out from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to help put things away.
- e. **Walk for Animals** - June 21, 2014 to be held at the airport once again. Thieme said plans are set. Farnsworth suggested a poster at the Humane Society to promote Old Home Day.

- f. **Old Home Day, July 19, 2014 - Parade** - ideas to get children to walk in parade. It was decided that personal contact is the best way to encourage children to attend (with their parents). DiLuzio suggested cow caps. Morrison suggested getting in touch with Mt. Caesar and Cutler School principals to reach parents and children from the schools. Greatbatch suggested an Open Space event at the Richardson Park camp to encourage involvement by youth. Morrison spoke about a possible credit course for high school youth to participate in OSC and Conservation Commission meetings. DiLuzio suggested a scavenger hunt at the Richardson Park camp for the children. Greatbatch will contact Recreation Director Judy Bohannon regarding the best time for an OSC visit for an hour with the children.
- g. **Saving Special Places Conference** - Ames attended and reviewed the main points with the members. Ames said that Peter Forbes runs Center for Whole Communities. August 23, 2014 Forbes will be speaking at the Monadnock Conservancy. Gist of his message – that we are hardwired to care about the land. Make people feel connected to the land, is the best way to protect the land. It's about relationships. She spoke about values versus strategies. A Conservation Easement is a promise that a landowner makes to a community.
4. **Northfield Mt. Hermon Farmer's Market Teach In** -May 9, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the purpose of the event is to educate students about food sustainability and local food. Thieme said that there is no problem with folks from New Hampshire being in attendance. McElvey said he would attend the meeting. DiLuzio volunteered to be there from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. McElvey can be there from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Bernard will help set up and be there from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Greater farm community will be in attendance. Include in booth: brochures, postcards, DVD presentation, OSC buttons.
5. **Jean Blood Donation** - \$489.12 – discussion regarding how to use funds in memory of Jean Blood. Morrison suggested planting bank stabilizing species of plants and removal of invasive species on the Muster Field property. The Blood Farm property was also discussed for the same sort of activity and it was noted that Emily Hague would probably know who the steward is for the Blood property. Ames will talk to Hague. Morrison will research the costs associated with his recommendations for the Muster Field. Discussion about the fact that Jean Blood loved horses and perhaps lessons for a child or a scholarship for a youngster to join the Pony Club would be best use of the money. DiLuzio will research Pony Club membership its cost.
6. **New Alternate member** - Deb Crowder has been appointed as our third Alternate member.
7. **Forest Conservation Talk** on April 24, 2014, being held at Antioch at 7:00 p.m. open to members.

ADJOURNMENT

DiLuzio **moved** to adjourn; Sielke seconded the motion and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**
Adjournment occurred at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary