

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Open Space Committee (OSC)**  
Meeting Minutes – June 12, 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 4:58 p.m. Present were Chairman Jeanne Thieme, Bob McKelvey, Judy Hildebrandt, Beverly Bernard, Theresa DiLuzio, Sharon Greatbatch, Selectmen's Representative Kenneth P. Colby Jr., and alternate Mary Farnsworth. Farnsworth was seated for Crowder.

Also present was resident Karen Sielke.

**Absent:** Deb Crowder

**Minutes:** Minutes of May 15, 2013 were not discussed.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Master Plan Update**

Thieme asked Farnsworth for an update on the update of the Master Plan portion which deals with conservation and open space. Farnsworth reported that the project is still being worked on and there was nothing to review at this time.

### **June 22, 2013 Walk for Animals**

Thieme said she visited the area where the animals will be at the Airport for this event. Bernard & Farnsworth will be there between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The parade is at 10:30 a.m. Thieme said there is a need for a volunteer from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. to pack up the OSC materials. DiLuzio volunteered to try to be there.

Thieme suggested giving out the Old Home Day parade invitation bookmarks to children at the Walk for Animals. A discussion was held about whether non-Swanzey children should be given the bookmarks since they were intended for Swanzey children. Colby suggested that children from towns other than Swanzey would probably not attend the Old Home Days parade anyway, so it would be "self filtering". Hildebrandt **moved** to spend \$100.00 for transporting the oxen, Greatbatch seconded, all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

### **June 30, 2013 OSC sponsored Rail Trail Awareness Day bike/hike**

Greatbatch reported on the status of planning for the Rail Trail Awareness Day. She displayed to the committee the flyers and posters she had prepared for the event. She also passed to Hildebrandt a bill for \$210.00 for the flyers. Posters were distributed to members for display at St. James church in Keene, Market Basket grocery store in Swanzey, Swanzey Town Hall, and the Keene Public Library. McKelvey requested a PDF file sent to his bike club. Farnsworth offered to leave a poster at Norm's Bike Shop and the Recycling Center.

Greatbatch asked for help with refreshments. The ride starts at 9:00 a.m. Each ride starts at either the south or north end of the trail and meeting at the middle at Cresson Bridge. Greatbatch also asked for volunteers to wear vests and control traffic. Colby asked if Police Chief DeAngelis was contacted and Greatbatch said yes, he was, and while the police cannot do the work he is okay with it being done privately. DiLuzio volunteered do the parking at the VFW site at the south end of the trail at 8:30 a.m. Resident Seilke volunteered to direct crossing at Cresson Bridge. Greatbatch offered to provide large jugs of lemonade. DiLuzio offered to shop for cookies. Trash bins will be in place. Greatbatch will go shopping with DiLuzio to buy the supplies. DiLuzio will pick up vests for folks to use who are directing traffic.

### **Old Home Day**

Bernard passed out bookmarks designed to be given to children to encourage them to join the OSC at the Old Home Day parade on July 20, 2013. DiLuzio offered to take bookmarks to the Stratton Free Library. Bernard will take bookmarks to Mt. Caesar Library. Bernard passed to Hildebrandt a bill for the \$20.00 cost for printing the bookmarks. It was suggested that Judy Bohannon possibly take some bookmarks to the Swanzey camp and DiLuzio volunteered to ask her. It was decided that the bookmarks not be given out until July. Further discussion for Old Home Day was tabled until the July meeting.

### **Jean Blood's donation to OSC**

Jean Blood has designated a donation be made to the OSC and the Town has had no way to take the funds being offered. Colby briefed the committee about setting up a fund for donations to the Open Space Committee. Colby reported that Town Administrator O'Keefe spoke to the Trustees of the Trust Funds, and the fund will be set up next Tuesday at the Board of Selectmen's meeting. He passed out a resolution that stated the terms for the Open Space Preservation and Protection Non-Restricted Fund for review by the members of the committee. Donations that go into this fund in the future are required to be used for "any activity related to the preservation and protection of land within Swanzey only". Blood's donation will be put into the fund.

DiLuzio had an idea to use some of the money in the fund to pay for a sign that shows the Blood family land in conservation. It was decided that this action was premature. Thieme asked about a scholarship fund for a student majoring in Environmental Science. Colby said the OSC would need a separate fund for that purpose.

Hildebrandt brought up the issue of the thank you notes. Colby said that O'Keefe takes care of the thank you notes from the Town. But the OSC could write separate thank you notes. Thieme will do the thank you notes from the OSC.

### **Carter Parcel update**

A discussion was held regarding the property that is for sale on the corner of Route 32 and Carleton Road which consists of approximately 27 acres. A letter has been sent to the landowner and to her real estate agent to discuss the possibility of including a conservation effort as part of the sale of the property. DiLuzio suggested talking to a local builder, about a deal around building houses and putting some of the land into conservation easement. The committee agreed that any committee member can talk to anyone about possibilities to conserve even part of this parcel.

### **Conservation Commission Update**

DiLuzio gave a summary of work being followed up for the Riley property. Vegetation Control will take care of the invasive species plants and the commission will put up a sign. She also reported that the

Steve Roberge plan for the property, written in 2012, was provided to the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. Colby spoke about the need for a gate at the property. The Conservation Commission needs to contact Director of Public Works Lee Dunham directly and discuss what can be done by the Department of Public works when there is time.

DiLuzio also reported that the Conservation Commission is working on a better canoe access at Cresson Bridge which would include a rain garden to help retain water from running off and eroding soil into the river. Farnsworth suggested that a rain garden could be dedicated to Jean Blood.

#### **West Swanzey Athletic Association (WSAA) Building Demolition**

Colby gave an update on the demolition of the WSAA building. Colby said that the goal is to have the building down by the first of July, 2013. Greatbatch asked about funds, and Colby said there are recreation funds available. DiLuzio asked about whether the pavement will be taken up but Colby was unsure about it.

#### **Full Membership for Farnsworth**

Farnsworth was asked by Thieme whether she had obtained a full membership instead of an alternate membership now that there is an opening. Farnsworth reported that the transition has not yet occurred.

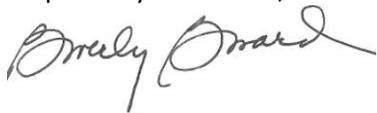
Farnsworth reported that she has been on hiking trails, and met people on the trails who don't know anything about the other trails available in Town. She suggested that a tape be placed on the trailhead boxes citing that additional trails exist with a website address for further information.

Colby talked about membership on the committee if Sielke is interested. The Alternate membership would be available if Farnsworth becomes a full member. The committee informed Sielke that all she needs to do is fill out an application at Town Hall.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

McKelvey **moved** to adjourn, and Hildebrandt seconded, all were in favor. Motion passed. Adjournment at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beverly Bernard".

Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary