

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – July 10, 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 5:00 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 Karen Sielke. Sielke was seated for Farnsworth.

Thieme announced that Farnsworth has been named by the Board of Selectmen as a full member in the Open Space Committee with a term extending to Town Meeting 2015, and Sielke to the Open Space Committee as an alternate member taking the seat vacated by Farnsworth, which extends to Town Meeting 2014.

Absent: Deb Crowder, Mary Farnsworth

Minutes:

Minutes of May 15, 2013 – deferred to next meeting

Minutes of June 12, 2013 – deferred to next meeting

AGENDA ITEMS

Old Home Day - July 20th

There was a discussion regarding shirts for committee members. Booth set up is 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. For the parade Sharon will provide 25 flags for the children. This is the last time that the oxen will be with us in the parade. DiLuzio suggested asking Chelsea Crowder to participate in the parade with goats Meg and Beth. Thieme will ask her. A discussion was held about Flat Ike photos. Bernard will bring Flat Ike photo for easel. The committee discussed the activity at the booth and manning of the booth.

Schedule for Old Home Day activities:

- Bernard, McKelvey, Greatbatch – 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- DiLuzio: 10:30 a.m. – noon
- Hildebrandt: 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Thieme – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm
- Farnsworth – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

West Swanzey Athletic Association building update - Colby

Colby reported the building is down and the debris is gone. The company that took down the building will be bringing in loam to bring the site up to grade. The asphalt is staying for now. Jeff Goller and Bud Windsor have been given the go ahead to start the plan for the park. There will be an opportunity for public input.

Rail Trail Awareness Day report - Greatbatch

More than 50 people showed up for refreshments at the Bridge during the bike/ride. Some Keene folks came south. Thieme asked what the committee ended up spending. Greatbatch said it was \$57.00 for food. Bernard complimented Greatbatch on her organizational skills in planning the event.

Greatbatch suggested that the committee revisit the idea of a mascot for the OSC replacing the oxen. The mascot could be an ox, or someone dressed in an oxen costume. Consensus by the committee was to keep oxen as the mascot even if it means finding someone to create an ox costume. A brief discussion was held regarding maintaining the Rail Trail event as an annual event. Colby suggested a railroad spike be driven at Swanzey/Keene town lines in keeping with the Union and Pacific Railroad joining at Promissory Point in Utah in the 19th century. DiLuzio suggested that the signs promoting the event be distributed around town and not just at the Rail Trail in the future.

Walk for Animals Report - Thieme

Thieme reported that the day went well. Many people were in the parade. People were interested in our trail maps. There were over 100 people in attendance, a lot of them walking dogs. The oxen received a lot of attention. It was a good event for building awareness of the work of the committee.

Carpenter Home Walk Update- Bernard

No update at this time. Bernard reported that we are waiting for logger to declare a start date – and most likely it will be winter.

Carter property update - Thieme

Thieme has been in touch with Tad Lacey, realtor handling the sale of the Carter property at the corner of Route 32 and Carlton Road. She reported that Mrs. Carter has been in hospital and hasn't had a chance to read the OSC letter. We will continue to try to get in touch with Mrs. Carter.

A piece of property owned by Mrs. Carter has been sold to a logger. Perhaps he will be interested in a conservation easement after he has logged it since the property is between Tippin Rock and Carroll's Hill.

Colby left the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Master Plan Update - Farnsworth

Farnsworth was not in attendance but she reported through Thieme that she will be here for the parade on Old Home Day. She also said that she will be working with Town Planner Carbonneau to determine a deadline for submission of edits to the Master Plan for the Conservation section.

Jean Blood's donations so far total \$365.00

Thieme asked the committee for ideas to use the money in honor of Jean Blood. Bernard suggested doing something at the new park on Main St. where the former Wes Swanzey Athletic Center once stood. Greatbatch asked if Mrs. Blood's family might provide some suggestions. A long discussion went on regarding how to honor Mrs. Blood. Mrs. Blood was more interested in agriculture and horses than hiking or canoeing or river access. McKelvey suggested a prize at the Cheshire Fair. DiLuzio suggested something at one of the Town's schools. She also suggested a plaque for the Blood property be erected in memory of Blood. The committee will continue to think about ideas for use of the money being donated.

Conservation Commission Update - DiLuzio

DiLuzio reported that the commission is getting a sign made for the Riley property which will be similar to other Town signs. She also reported that the commission is working on ridding the property of the invasive species currently growing there. The commission also has a goal to improve the canoe access to the river. Public Works Director Lee Dunham has been consulted about the canoe access that needs to be done on both the Sawyer's Crossing area next to the river and the Riley property. Discussion has been underway regarding a rain garden.

Kibler Land Hike - DiLuzio

DiLuzio said she talked to Ann Meyer who is an historian about presenting a history of the Kibler farm. Meyer said she would be willing to talk to Dr. Kibler, and her minimum fee is \$50.00. She would also need travel money. She would do a talk on the history of his land during a short hike. DiLuzio said we need to get agreement to the idea from Dr. Kibler. The suggestion was to plan a hike on the property that could be held on September 28th. DiLuzio will talk to Dr. Kibler about the possibility.

Other Business

Thieme mentioned a Monadnock Conservancy program for neighboring towns which is being held on July 23, 2013 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and asked that members of the committee try to attend if possible.

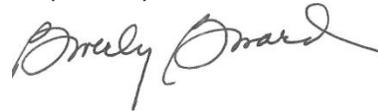
Thieme also spoke about an event being held at the First Congregational Church in Swanzy on farm buildings and why they are connected. The event is being held July 18, 2013.

McKelvey reported that he placed the plaque on the OSC bench on Honey Hill. He enjoyed the hike to the top but warned the members that the entrance to the trail was very wet and full of ticks.

ADJOURNMENT

Hildebrandt **moved** to adjourn, and Greatbatch seconded, all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
Adjournment at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary