

SWANZEY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

MINUTES July 11, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jeanne Thieme; Deb Crowder; Beverly Barnard; Katherine Feist; Sharon Greatbatch; Paula Shanks; Theresa Diluzio. Guests: Bob McKelvey;

Meeting started at 5:00pm

BUDGET - Chairman Thieme informed the committee that we have approximately \$4900. remaining in this years' budget. Members discussed holding a Flat Ike special event. Ways of promoting the project beyond placement of FI's in various town business as listed in our press releases was also discussed. It was suggested that we each promote the project as individuals with friends and acquaintances by carrying FI's with us wherever we go handing them out at appropriate times and places and to also make them available at the band concerts held at the Potash Bowl and at Richardson Park.

With landowner permission, members were in agreement to look into installing a bench along the trail along with signage telling of the history of the land of each easement property where trail maps are available. Sharon will get prices of benches made of Trex, wood & granite.

Jeanne suggested we put together a Power Point presentation about the OSC and their activities that could then be shown to local organizations and at various functions. She suggested hiring Hal Bernsten who was kind enough to put together a small presentation for us on the Flat Ike student projects. In an effort to save money, Bev volunteered her services as she has the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a presentation. She will make each presentation that we do specially suited to that particular audience and age group.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT – Deb reported that the ConCom, at the request of Bruce Bohannon, has agreed to give \$10,000. toward the improvement of the Ashuelot Rail Trail project from Sawyers Crossing Rd to Pine St. A question was raised about the Land Acquisition Fund and its purpose. It was explained how the money has been used for transaction costs and to help purchase easements but that it is not necessarily meant for land purchases. BOS approval and public hearings are required before any of the funds can be released.

OLD HOME DAYS – Members worked out a booth schedule and parade participants. Bob McElvey volunteered to assist Sharon set up the tent, booth and tables in the morning. Katherine, Deb, and Theresa, will take down in the afternoon. We will bring banners, maps, buttons, brochures, post cards and the map w/pins. Paula will contact parents on list of children wishing to march in the parade with our open space ambassadors.

FLAT IKE PROJECT – We have received about 24 photos to date. Members feel that folks are busy with summer activities and vacations so it could take a while before they submit their photos. Bev handed out instructions and the password so we would all have access to the OSC lap top computer. She also explained how to view the photos at home on our personal computers. Katherine suggested we begin to

think about our next theme upon completion of the FI project. "Hike Swanzey" was one theme suggested. Activities involving Swanzey Lake and the Ashuelot River were mentioned.

TRAIL HEADS – Boxes are up and maps are at the Tippin' Rock and Honey Hill trail heads. Carroll's Hill is still in process.

Wooden signs were again discussed showing the name of the property and the OSC logo to be erected at the trail heads at Tippin' Rock, Honey Hill and Carroll's Hill. A motion was made by Katherine to order signs, seconded by Paula – motion passed.

ATTIC TOUR – Members went into the attic of Town Hall to see where we now store our tent, posters and other items.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Theresa DiLuzio