

**Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – August 14, 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 the meeting: Chair Jeanne Thieme called the meeting for order at 5:00 PM. Present were Chairman Jeanne Thieme, Bob McKelvey, Judy Hildebrandt, Theresa Diluzio, Mary Farnsworth, Ken Colby, Karen Sielke

Absent: Sharon Greatbatch, Beverly Bernard and Deb Crowder

Monadnock Conservancy/Anne McBride

Anne McBride came and updated the committee on last year's presentation about the West Hill/California Brook project.

The total project cost is \$371,300. The conservancy is seeking \$22,500 in funds from the town of Swanzey to support the project.

There will be a joint meeting on September 3, 2013 at 6:00 PM. Anne will be presenting then to the Open Space Committee, Conservation Committee, Swanzey Planning Board and Selectmen.

ARM Funds:

The Committee discussed the need to have in mind what these funds are to be used for before the money goes into the ARM Fund. Theresa Diluzio suggested using these funds for the Matthews Road property. The Committee agreed that this would be a good choice. Theresa Diluzio agreed to continue conversations with the landowner.

This brought up the topic of the property for sale by the Carlton Road Bridge and Route 32. Jeanne Thieme had a conversation with the realtor and there is still hope that a meeting could take place re: the land or part of could be protected. The landowner has received our letter of interest and did not say no. The realtor did not let on that there was any other interest in the property,

Old Home Day Feedback:

Overall the general consensus was that the day went well. The only thing lacking was more participation from children in the parade. A discussion ensued how we can reach more children.

West Swanzey Project:

Ken Colby did not have anything new to report since last Committee meeting. He did announce that there will be a BBQ for the Whitcomb Hall Fund on 8/24. Watch the town website for more information.

Fall Hike:

A fall hike is planned for September 21st on Mount Cresson on Matthews Road. Beverly Bernard and Theresa Diluzio will be working on planning and publicizing the hike.

Open Space Committee Oxen:

Victoria Barlow has told the Open Space Committee that she would bring the oxen to any of our events such as the Old Home Day Parade and other activities. It will cost the Committee \$100.00 to truck the oxen to the events. The idea of purchasing an oxen costume to use, has been put on hold.

Open Space Committee – Master Plan Update:

Mary Farnsworth presented to the group a “first pass” presentation for feedback. Farnsworth received very helpful comments on the direction the group felt the update should go in.

Banner idea:

Jeanne Thieme presented to the group an idea regarding the possibility of the Open Space Committee designing and purchasing banners which can be flown at different locations in Swanzey. The banners would represent different things to bring attention to the Town of Swanzey ie: A thank you banner to the oxen, advertising the Whitcomb Hall project, saluting the different sides of Swanzey.

The idea was well received by the group. It was discussed that this could be a way to honor Jean Blood and possibly utilize some of the funds that were donated to the Open Space Committee in her memory.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Farnsworth.