

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Open Space Committee (OSC)
Meeting Minutes – October 9, 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 M. Thieme, Bob McElvey, Theresa DiLuzio, Sharon Greatbatch, Mary Farnsworth, Selectman's Representative Kenneth P. Colby, Jr., Alternate Karen Sielke.

Absent: Beverly Bernard, Deb Crowder, Judith Hildebrandt

Minutes:

AGENDA ITEMS

Walk/Talk Event Scheduled for Mt. Caesar Timber Harvest

~DiLuzio voiced her concerns and disappointment that the entire field behind Carpenter Home was cut since she thought it was in the contract that it, or at least parts of the field would be left. She wondered who had made this decision and Selectman Colby said he would look in to it.

~Selectman Colby shared the history of the Carpenter Home and it's ties to the Carpenter Family with OSC and how funds from the timber harvest would benefit the Carpenter Home.

~Jeff Snitkin who is presenting with Steve Robarge to residents on Oct. 19th, asked if there would be someone who had some history of the Carpenter Home to share with interested residents. DiLuzio said she would contact Lee Dunham who has access to the histories of many places in town.

~The neutrality of the OSC re: the timber harvest itself was discussed and all agreed that on Oct. 19th the OSC is offering an opportunity for residents to learn more about what is happening on Mt. Caesar but are not taking a stand whether the harvest is beneficial or not.

~Farnsworth thought perhaps putting up posters from the Norton Mass. Forest (info Bernard sent to OSC earlier) would be beneficial in helping to explain timber cutting in general. It was decided that OSC would see how the Oct. 19th talk was received.

Interested participants for the Timber Harvest talk will meet at Town Hall on Oct. 19th at 9:00 a.m.

~The meeting was interrupted by Mike Thieme at 5:20 to announce that the Thieme's had a new grandson. Meeting resumed at 5:30.

Mt. Caesar Trail Clean Up Day

McElvey suggested having a Trail Day for Mt. Caesar Clean-Up after the logging is done.

California Brook Update

The Planning Board, Con Com and OSC have approved funding for the project.

W. Swanzey Park

Selectman Colby informed the OSC that they are waiting for the final survey to be done before the project can move forward. Colby has set a goal of July 1, 2014 for the park to open.

Stewardship Idea

It was discussed that perhaps a stewardship program could be initiated by OSC where an individual would get a group of volunteers together to be stewards of a trail in Swanzey. DiLuzio said she would make a list of other, not very well known conservation areas that could use stewards. To be discussed at Nov. meeting.

Benches

It was brought to OSC attention that more benches are needed along the Rail Trail and at other locations on Conserved areas.

OSC Wish Lists

Thieme handed out the "Wish Lists" of the OSC that were generated at the January 2013 retreat to see how many OSC had attained.

Meeting with O'Keefe

Thieme reported that she met with Shane O'Keefe about the OSC role in the town and shared the book that contained OSC mission statement, goals and accomplishments since 2004 when the OSC began.

ADJOURNMENT

Thieme **moved** to adjourn, and McElvey seconded, all were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Thieme