

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Open Space Committee**  
Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2012

*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: Jeanne Thieme, Beverly Bernard, Theresa DiLuzio, Bob McKelvey, Ken Colby, Paula Shank, Sharon Greatbatch. Chair Thieme called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Absent: Judy Hildebrandt, Deb Crowder

Others Present: Victoria Reck Barlow

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Honoring Ike** - Barlow thanked everyone for messages of condolences at loss of Ike. Now that both Buck & Ike are gone, this is a time of transition and there is a need for the entire Town to experience that transition. Barlow at first wanted to do something prior to Thanksgiving but realized that time was running out for proper planning. She concluded that the most appropriate thing would be to design and post a plaque at Belding Field in the spring. She presented that idea to owner of the field who approved of the idea so long as it didn't impede future use of the property. Discussion was held around the ideas of having a press release for the newspaper or something for the children in the schools to be done right away. DiLuzio said it would be fine to do something later, but need to do something now for closure. McKelvey suggested making an announcement for kids. Bernard suggested postcards for the entire town. Colby suggested posters. Greatbatch made a **motion** that Barlow not be burdened with the details but instead be used as a consultant in the planning. Seconded by DiLuzio. All in favor. **Motion passed.** Discussion continued around what the plaque and post would look like and who would attend the spring event. DiLuzio suggested we might be able to get Channel 8 to come to the spring event. Barlow explained that there are concrete posts on the property to which the plaque could be attached. Barlow volunteered to come up with verbiage for the plaque. It was agreed that posters would be a good idea for the present and that they would be 11" by 17", which is standard size. The purpose of the posters is to announce that there would be a dedication of remembrance for the oxen, coming in the spring. Barlow left the meeting at 5:20 pm. **Motion** by Thieme to support a plan for a spring dedication and create posters now to advertise the spring dedication at which time a plaque would be installed commemorating the oxen who served the Town. Colby seconded. All in favor. **Motion passed.** Shank suggested that the Committee might want to obtain a Proclamation to come from the Board of Selectmen or perhaps the Governor. Thieme to ask Gus Leraudeau or Jane Johnson if one of them might be willing to call the Governor. Colby suggested Creations in Stone for a plaque.
- **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer was not present.
- **Budget for 2013** - Thieme stated that the figures for current budget was \$5000 for the operating budget and \$50,000 for the Land Acquisition account and suggested the committee could request at the same level. **Motion** by DiLuzio for \$5000 operating budget, and \$50,000 for Land Acquisition. Greatbatch seconded. All were in favor except Colby, who abstained. **Motion passed.** Thieme reported that the Committee needs to create a narrative report/summary of expenditures. At the Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting the BOS will be looking at recreational funding. Shank volunteered to write the report using Crowder's report from last year as a starting point. Thieme will attend the meeting; DiLuzio might be able to attend. Colby will email Thieme with BOS schedule.
- **Open Space Brochures** – A brief discussion was held regarding the cost of updating the Open Space brochures which informs residents on the goals and activities of the Open Space Committee. Gem-Graphics has same price whether for 500 copies or 1000 copies, and that is \$186. **Motion** by Thieme to finance 1000 brochures,

seconded by Greatbatch. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Benches Update** – Barlow has agreed that Honey Hill is appropriate for bench placement. The logger making the benches is going to move the benches onto the trail. Logger is willing to take the bench up to the view on the ledge at Carroll's Hill. He will bring bench up Mt. Cresson as well. The Committee also expects to put one bench on Kibler/Perry/Gill property. Greatbatch and Thieme will install plaques on bench after they are in place.
- **Plan NH Charrette** - is this coming Friday, Nov. 9th - Thieme reviewed the times 3:30 p.m. at the Woolen Mills. Dinner at Cutler School at 5:15pm. Next session is at 6:30 p.m. at the mill. Saturday morning 9-11a.m. is workshop, for people who are planners. DiLuzio will go to one event on Friday and Sat. Thieme will attend both sessions on Friday and Saturday afternoon. Several other Committee members will also be in attendance at various times. Twenty-two planning professionals will be attending. Plan that is developed over Friday and Saturday morning is presented at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. DiLuzio will attend the walk on Friday. Colby will be attending as well.
- **Update on Yale property ongoing discussion** – At the request of the Open Space Committee, Thieme talked to Ryan Owens about the issues around Yale property and what we can do to protect it, yet also provide for planned development. The tract of land is 1700 acres in the middle of the town with a major road running through it. Owens suggested talking to Yale about the feasibility of planning for the future of the land. Owens will reach out to some of his Yale contacts to get a sense of whether or not Yale would be open to planning for the future with townspeople. Next step, Owens to get together with some key people to discuss the potential for the project. Crowder will be one of the people to brainstorm, as well as Thieme.
- **Therrien Trial** - Thieme asked if anyone knows the trail. She asked if this trail is suitable for another bench and trail-head box. DiLuzio thought it was just a loop off Forest Ave. and not suitable.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- **Kibler property** - Dr. Kibler wants to open a trail for access by townspeople but we need to confirm which portion of the land he is willing to open up, which is not close to his house. DiLuzio will continue to work on this although she may not be able to have any further information until spring depending on the weather. Thieme suggested roughly marking the trail with ties, if Dr. Kibler is up to walking the trail.
- **Report from Conservation Committee** – DiLuzio reported that the Conservation Committee is working on Wilson Pond setback retention among other tasks.

**Motion** to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. by DiLuzio. Greatbatch seconded motion. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary