

MINUTES OF OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC) MEETING

Dec. 14, 2011

In Attendance: Jeanne Thieme, Beverly Bernard, Sara Carbonneau, Sharon Greatbatch, Katherine Feist, Paula Shank, Theresa DeLuzia, Judy Hildebrandt, Deb Crowder (all committee members), and a member of the public: Bruce Bohannon

Bruce Bohannon is Emergency Management Director for town, and attended the meeting to speak about requesting the OSC support for a grant to enhance the trail under the Town of Swanzey's 2012 Recreational Trails Program. His group is pursuing a \$30,000 Federal program grant to smooth out the trail and fix up the ditches. This would be the rail trail south of Sawyer's Crossing Rd to Pine Street. They are looking for support from the OSC. We would provide a letter in support of the grant being awarded to the town. Jeanne made a motion to produce a letter in support of these efforts to obtain the grant. Sharon seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Bruce then left the meeting.

Theresa reported that talks are progressing on the Brown Farm easement. The easement should be completed by end of March 2012. There are approximately 140 acres involved. Two sections will be left out of the easement. She believes that this will be an agricultural easement. The OSC paid for original appraisal on land with a grant. She also met with Bob Berstein who is with Land For Good. Land for Good is looking to have some connection with the Brown Farm easement. Some of the land is along the river and some on the street side. Jeanne will continue to try to contact Cynthia Richardson regarding promotion of the easement to the public.

We discussed signs for easement trails. Deb reported that signs are up on Mount Cresson now. There was a brief discussion on signs for other trails under conservation easement, such as Tippin Rock and Carroll Hill. Deb knows a man from Stoddard who makes signs for about \$20 apiece. Others thought we might get Mark Johnson to make signs since he is in Swanzey. Bev will call Mark and ask him about metal versus wood, and get some samples and prices.

A brief discussion was held on maps for the trails. Theresa reported that Dan (a former member of the OSC) is in town, and he has done maps for the OSC in the past. Bud Windsor, in charge of physical plant at Keene State, also has the ability to map using a GPS. And the question is will the Monadnock Conservancy (MC) be doing it? Jeanne will call Emily at the Monadnock Conservancy and learn more.

Jeanne reported on Carroll's Hill Trail - maybe need to cut down some trees to enhance the view, but need to hike up the trail with a chain saw. The trail is now marked.

Flat Ike Project report: Katherine reported that she and Sharon met with Bruce Barlow and Ryan Owens. There will be only 3 or 4 classrooms involved - 3rd, 8th, and 11th grades. Bruce is contacting the teachers to get agreement to participate. Three folks, representing MC, OSC, and the School District, will each take 10 minutes to talk about the project in the first session (Feb.). Second session with kids is designed for interactive critiquing (March), third meeting in April to help with mounting the Flat Ike photos/descriptions. We have \$1500 to spend on this project. Need to spend budgeted money before

Dec. 16th or lose it, according to Sara. We can spend \$500 on a projector and screen. Discussion included possibility of using projector, screen and a laptop computer for other projects, not just Flat Ike Project. \$1477.91 is actual amount left in budget that we need to spend. We will be able to purchase Flat Ike printouts with balance after purchases. Judy moved that we purchase projector, screen, and laptop, Jeanne seconded, all were in favor. Katherine moved that Sharon purchase Flat Ikes, seconded by Beverly Bernard, all in favor. We can use Gem Graphics to produce Flat Ikes. Volunteers for the Flat Ike Project - Presenters: Bev, Jeanne, Katherine. Helpers: Theresa, Deb, and Paula.

Meeting ended at 6:30pm.

Next Meeting: January 11, 2012 - we can plan on discussing our multiple visions on what to present to kids

Respectfully Submitted

Beverly Bernard, December 15, 2012