

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Conservation Commission Meeting**  
Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2014

*Note: Minutes are subject to review, correction, and approval by the Commission. Review, correction, and approval of minutes generally occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Robert Goodrich at 4:02 p.m. Committee Members Present: Wally Smith, Mike Morrison, Ric Dell'Erba and Gary Coburn. Jane B. Johnson joined the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

**ABSENT**

Deb Crowder, Stephen Stepenuck

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**MINUTES**

Minutes of January 6 2014 were discussed. Motion was made by Morrison to accept the minutes of February 6, 2014 with a second by Smith. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Cresson Bridge Work**

A discussion occurred regarding the intention of the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation to conduct work on the Cresson Bridge. The discussion included a reference to a possible rain garden to help ease erosion at the parking lot adjacent to the bridge. Morrison suggested planting of wild berry, wild raisin, Juneberry, and smooth-bark dogwood shrubs at the Cresson Bridge which can be obtained from the NH nursery sponsored by the Resources & Economic Development out of Boscawen, NH. Morrison will follow up.

**Backhoe on Property on Lake Street**

Goodrich mentioned that there is a backhoe on Lake Street that was running today and there is probably going to be digging going on there. The concern is that it possibly could be an infraction if the Town has not issued a permit for work near a wetland (Wilson Pond). Morrison asked if it would be appropriate to have the Town's Code Enforcement Officer determine if there is a proper permit for digging on the property. It was agreed that it was.

**Election of Officers and Roadside Cleanup**

Goodrich reminded the members that officers for next year need to be determined in March. Goodrich asked for a volunteer for Chair. And he mentioned the need to plan for the roadside cleanup in April, probably to be held on April 26, 2014. Smith suggested that it might be good to get young people involved, either Boy Scouts or one of the schools.

**Motion** was made by Morrison to invite the Open Space Committee members to participate in the April cleanup, second by Coburn, and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Riley Conservation Area Sign**

Coburn said he spoke to Johnson Lettering about the price of \$360.00 for a new sign for the Riley Conservation Area and Johnson will honor the price for a 4" X 8" sign. The discussion continued regarding a 4" X 8" sign being too small to be useful. Coburn said he would follow up with Johnson since the sign should have been 24" by 30" and that he was taken aback when Johnson mentioned the smaller size. Morrison suggested asking for bids for making a sign. A discussion was held on the number of sign-makers in the area. It was agreed to approach NEOPA Signs, McAnney, and Johnson Lettering for prices for signs.

**Motion** was made by Johnson to re-do the sign verbiage to read:

**Riley Conservation Area**  
**est. (add date)**  
**Town of Swanzey**

Second by Morrison and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

After some discussion the sign was determined to be approximately 18" by 24" in size. Wally suggested that the sign-maker should determine the correct size and the committee should ask for two or three samples.

**Motion** by Coburn to put a request for a sign for the Riley Conservation Area out to bid, second by Morrison, no discussion, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

More discussion regarding the need to provide public notices if going out to bid. Morrison said he would check with Director of Planning and Community Development Sara Carbonneau regarding legal notices for bids.

## **REPORTS**

**ARLAC** – no report

### **Open Space Committee (OSC)**

Bernard informed the committee of the plans by the OSC to have a Facebook page. She also responded to a question about 2014 activity by the OSC with a list of events that the OSC will be planning. Discussion occurred about how the Conservation Commission might sponsor some Fish & Game (Mary Goodhue) presentations on outdoors/bears/bobcats. "Reading the New England Forest" was another suggestion. It was noted that NH Humanities has programs that can be taken advantage of. A contribution to NH Humanities may reduce the price for presentations. Morrison talked about a "Let's Go Fishing" program that he is aware of that could be sponsored by the Conservation Commission. Johnson suggested further discussion next month. Morrison asked Bernard to bring up the topic of sharing a presentation with the Open Space Committee.

### **SWRPC-Natural Resources Committee**

Johnson spoke about the Farm Bill that may pass at the NH Legislature. Question of joining group of NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS), located in Concord, NH. The benefit would be that the committee receives electronic notification of all their events and attendance at events at discounted

price. The group offers educational experiences with financial discounts through seminars, interfacing with other professionals and professional disciplines (Wetland, Forestry, Wildlife and Soils), direct advice and knowledge of state and federal regulation requirements and changes

Johnson made the **motion** to join the NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists at an annual fee of \$20.00. The motion was seconded by Morrison, and all were in favor.

***Motion passed.***

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Mail**

A letter regarding planning for work on the Sawyer's Crossing Bridge (Cresson Bridge) was received from Normandeau Environmental Consultants on behalf of the NH Department of Transportation. Goodrich passed the letter around for review by the members. There was discussion regarding how to respond to the questions asked in the letter. Goodrich suggested responding with committee member Stepenuck's concerns about creating a rain garden in the area and the data he has on the water quality of the river. Morrison suggested using materials that have already been done in the past. He said that the NH Fish and Game Department has done studies in the past. Bernard offered to scan the Normandeau letter in order for each member of the committee to have the questions at hand to enable individual responses.

### **Town Report**

There was a brief discussion regarding the Conservation Commission's submission for the annual Town Report and who would be doing it.

### **Monitoring Reports from the Monadnock Conservancy**

Goodrich informed the committee that the Monadnock Conservancy has sent out a survey asking for input for the 2013 Monitoring Report for the following lands under conservation: #104 Blood Easement, # 168 Ridgehill Farm (Johnson), and #132 Perry Farm (Dr. Kibler).

### **Planning for activity in 2014**

Smith asked about the plans for activity in 2014 such as the Ashuelot River Paddling Trip. Goodrich said the trip wasn't done in 2013 but it could be done in 2014. Smith also asked about Ashuelot River testing and Goodrich responded that Stepenuck has done that in the past. The committee will continue with projects for 2014 such as April road cleanup, River Paddle/Cleanup, water testing for the South Branch of Ashuelot River in conjunction with ARLAC, sponsoring one middle and one high school student for Camp Berry, trail cleanups, and providing scholarships.

Morrison **moved** to adjourn, seconded by Smith, all were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment at 5:52p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary