

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Conservation Commission Meeting**  
Meeting Minutes – March 3, 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 4:05 p.m. Committee Members Present: Wally Smith, Jane Johnson, Mike Morrison, Ric Dell'Erba.

**ABSENT**

Deb Crowder, Stephen Stepenuck, and Gary Coburn.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Rail Trail Administrator Bruce Bohannon

**MINUTES**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Request for support for Rail Trail work between Pine Street and Homestead Avenue**

Bohannon asked the Conservation Commission for its support. Bohannon said that he will be seeking a grant to repair a portion of the Rail Trail between Pine Street and Homestead Avenue.

**Motion** was made by Morrison to authorize Chair Goodrich to sign a support letter for a grant to fix up the Rail Trail between Pine Street and Homestead Avenue. The motion was seconded by Johnson, and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

**Election of Officers**

Goodrich reminded the members that officers for next year need to be determined in March. The Commission decided to table the issue until Stepenuck can be present.

**Roadside Clean-up April**

Discussion on when to have it and Morrison suggested Saturday May 3, 2014 because of the amount of snow remaining on the sides of the roads this winter. The members decided on May 3 as the tentative date. It was agreed to finalize tasks at the April meeting: vests, gloves, safety review, bags. Dell'Erba volunteered to change the date on the signs and he offered to pick up gloves. It was noted that the NH DOT provided vests and bags last year. Johnson checked the current supply and found 450 bags available for use which is more than enough for this year.

**Mark Johnson, Riley Sign:**

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

Morrison volunteered to contact Johnson Lettering regarding the proposed sign for the Riley Conservation Area. Discussion was held about which date to use on the sign and rearranging the words to fit the size of the sign. A decision was made to take the recommendation from Mr. Johnson as to positioning of the letters.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Nissan of Keene**

Discussion ensued regarding issues the Swanzey Planning Board has reviewed with the McGrath family to the south of the Nissan property and the resultant potential for revocation of the approved site plan by the Planning Board.

#### **3 Lake St. Work**

Members of the commission noted there is a backhoe on the property doing some digging. Dell'Erba took a photo and he said he sent it to New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) because digging is going on and the Conservation Commission is unaware of a permit granted for that digging. There was a discussion about Code Enforcement being informed about the ongoing work at the property to learn if the property owner has a permit to disturb the land near the pond. There was a discussion about whether or not the Wilson Pond homeowner's association has an oversight group at the State level to monitor the decisions of the homeowner's group.

Dell'Erba said that he believes the NH DES wetlands bureau is aware of the activity on the site.

### **REPORTS**

**ARLAC** – no report

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

Bernard informed the commission members of the new OSC page on Facebook. Also informed the Conservation Commission that any requests to the OSC for joint participation in events planned by the Conservation Commission should be by personal appearance at an OSC meeting so that everyone can understand the specifics of what is being asked for.

#### **SWRPC-NC**

Johnson mentioned that there exists a MS PowerPoint presentation related to agriculture in New Hampshire, in which the Monadnock region shows up well in producing agricultural goods.

#### **Invasive Species Removal**

A discussion was held regarding the spraying of invasive species at the Riley Conservation Area, which cannot be done until later in the year and cannot be done until the area is flagged so that wetlands are not sprayed. Morrison mentioned that he would follow up with Tom Forest for a wetlands survey to be done in order to document the presence of wetlands and isolate the area for eradication of invasive species.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Mail** –

**Dues for New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC)**

The commission received a letter from the NHACC regarding unpaid dues for year 2013 and year 2014. A discussion was held regarding whether or not to join this organization this year and whether or not to pay dues for last year. Services may have been offered, but the commission didn't take advantage of them and therefore some commission members felt it inappropriate to pay dues for 2013. There was no direct contact from them and they did not follow up with the Conservation Commission here in Swanzezy.

Johnson noted that the Town has two representatives from Swanzezy at the State level such that representation at the State level is not needed from another entity. Johnson read an email from Stepenuck regarding his opinion on whether or not to re-join the organization. Johnson said she isn't in favor of paying dues for the NHACC for last year, but she is in favor of joining this year. Smith suggested that they send someone from NHACC to meet with the commission to answer questions and help the commission ascertain the benefit to Swanzezy. Morrison suggested combining a meeting with other Conservation Commissions in the county. Smith said he would be willing to call the NHACC to meet with the Conservation Commission. Morrison referred to a woman who is the Chair of the Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) who arranges Natural Resources events. Morrison suggested a joint meeting with other Conservation Commissions in the area with the NHACC if the NHACC decides against meeting with only the Swanzezy Conservation Commission.

Morrison left the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

The discussion continued. Johnson referred to the Handbook produced by the NH Municipal Conservation Commissions and much of what is provided is already in place by the Swanzezy Conservation Commission.

**Forestry Notification Received**

Victoria Reck Ames is doing some logging up on Honey Hill.

**Runway Improvement Project – Formal major impact application approval request**

Goodrich explained to Smith that the airport authority is proposing work to provide a safety margin for planes landing at the airport and it has an impact on wetlands in the area. Received in the mail was a formal proposal for the work. The request is that Goodrich signs the document agreeing to the proposed work. A decision was made to table the application for now.

**Permit Application for Dredging at Talbot Hill for Edon Tap Estates – from SUR Construction West, Inc.**

The application was received but Johnson said she would not agree to sign the application today, and she requested that the topic be tabled to have more of a discussion and review the status of the land.

**Motion** to adjourn by Dell'Erba, second by Smith, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary