

Swanzy Conservation Commission

05/05/14 SCC regular meeting, Swanzy Town Hall, Swanzy Center, NH

Present: Vice Chairman Steve Stepenuck, Mike Morrison, Wally Smith, Gary Coburn and Jane Johnson. Absent: Chairman Bob Goodrich and Alternate Ric Del'Erba.

Steve Stepenuck, Chair pro-tem, called the meeting to order at **4:05 p.m.**

The Minutes of the April meeting were considered. Gary Coburn moved to accept as written. Mike Morrison seconded the motion. Unanimous approval..... 5 of 5 present.

Reports:

a. Treasury report

Expenses...Jan. through April 2014: \$590 (\$300 + \$290 ... NHACC (NH ASSOC. CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS) dues for 2014 and 2013)

Discussion: S. Stepenuck shared a postal flyer from NHACC noting that the association offers online 'forum' regarding testing resources.

Stepenuck questioned that there may be additional charges forthcoming from other actions. We will look into that at our next meeting.

b. Subcommittee:

1) Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee or ARLAC request:

Stepenuck moved that we appropriate \$200...\$100--regular bacterial monitoring and \$100--for equipment replacement and phosphorus monitoring.

Coburn seconded the motion.

Vote was unanimous, 5 of 5 present

2) Open position for a Swanzy representative to ARLAC. Meetings are 1/month, the 3rd Tues. of the month, at Keene Public Library at **7 p.m.**

Interested persons should contact: bskuly@ne.rr.com

Mike Morrison will ask for teachers at MRHS to volunteer for this position for in-service credit. This would facilitate student involvement stressing the importance of and the skills necessary to the procedure of water testing, etc.; a direct applied science activity. The members agreed this was a good idea.

Steve Stepenuck has volunteered to make a presentation of recent monitoring results on **June 2, 2014 at 7 p.m.** He will check with other Swanzy Town Committees and Boards for their availability to attend and will arrange a location for this program.

3) Open Space Committee report: Mike Morrison reported that he had attended the most recent meeting of this committee. They welcomed him and agree that much of our work overlaps in

interests of our Town. He reports that they are an active and well-organized committee and we hope to work in harmony with the OSC.

4) Southwest Regional Planning Commission or SWRPC:

Mike Morrison, representative to SWRPC, reported having attended a recent meeting at which the main topic was the concern for salamander crossings. Volunteers are needed to help with this and there are a number of helpful methods in the planning stages that would facilitate safer crossings. The meeting Morrison attended also worked on the mission statement for SWRPC which was largely to promote conservation.

Unfinished Business:

a) Permits and variances...none this month

b) Projects:

1) Roadside Cleanup....May 3, 2014...estimated 40 participants

a.) Discussed drafting an ordinance to enforce littering. M. Morrison will get information to present at later meeting

b.) Discussed forming a committee with a chairperson to direct the next roadside cleanup, (September?), thus increasing public notice, greater participation, better results

2)Muster Property

a)Stepenuck reported on communication with Kirsten Pulkinen at NHDES.

He elaborated on the existence of dangerous sinkholes on and near the trail threatening safety and the environment. It has been noted that a beaver dam may have been

built under the bridge causing hydropressure to wash out the riverbank. K. Pulkinen has sent online forms to Stepenuck. Member of the public, Walter *****, added his experiential knowledge of this situation and made valuable suggestions.

A motion was made by S. Stepenuck to ask approval of the BOS for SCC to complete a trail maintenance permit form to relocate the trail from the Muster Property to the Dickenson Forest and that we ask the BOS to submit the form to NHDES. Morrison seconded the motion. Voted unanimously, 5 of 5 present.

b) On Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 4 p.m. available members of SCC will meet with Alan Gross at the site n the Muster Property. Alan Gross has volunteered to assist by advising us on what measures would befit the correction of the problems at this site. He is an experienced trail builder and a resident of East Swanzey.

c) Stepenuck has consulted with Art Whipple, local trapper, and with Ted Walski, NHF&G, and will consult further with Lt. Morrocco of NHF&G for details on proper removal of the obstructions at the bridge at the above site.

3) Riley Conservation Area Sign:

M. Morrison displayed a sample of the sign we proposed to the sign maker, Mark Johnson. Jane Johnson moved that we have the sign printed as shown in the sample (without the date of establishment included). Morrison seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous..5 of 5 present. Morrison will return to Mark Johnson and place the order; price not to exceed \$360. Members of SCC will install the sign when it is finished.

4) Mt. Cresson Conservation Area

a.) A work day was planned for Mon., May 12, 2014, at 1 p.m. Stepenuck and Coburn will work on trail maintenance and welcome any who wish to accompany them. Bring all needed supplies.

b.) Johnson reported that there is a stack of mattresses within the power line clearing off Sawyers Crossing Rd, east of the Cresson Bridge.

Stepenuck made a motion that the SCC ask the BOS to allow Road Agt. Dunham to dispose of the mattresses. Johnson seconded the motion. Voted, 5 of 5, unanimous.

5) S.Stepenuck moved that we appropriate \$410 in scholarship funds to sponsor a student to attend Barry UNH/4H Conservation Camp. Motion was seconded by Wally Smith. Vote: unanimous...5 of 5. Morrison informed commission that there is one application and it is from Kyle Alison. His parent has paid \$75 and SCC will cover the remainder. All voted in the affirmative.

Miscellaneous:

LCIP: Honey Hill and the Mt. Cresson Conservation Area each need to be walked and a report submitted to the state. SJS has offered to show us the property lines. The Honey Hill access was also discussed and one of us will approach the BOS for further direction on this and the matter of parking area. We agreed to revisit these items at our June meeting.

New Business:

Mike Morrison presented an application for the SCC scholarship.

The letter was reviewed and the members voted to accept the application and award the scholarship to Kaylee Goodell, MRHS. The vote: 4 yes, 1 abstention. Stephen Stepenuck and Jane Johnson agreed to contact MRHS guidance regarding the form and grammar usage appropriate to future applications, be they to SCC or any other grantor.

The matter of a website for SCC was discussed and forwarded to the June agenda.

Mail: EMS Club Day; Supply Lines and the Source; and Wildlines (informational and ads)

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Morrison, seconded by Gary Coburn Adjourned at 6:20 p.m.