

**Swansey Conservation Commission [SCC]  
Draft Minutes  
July 1, 2013  
4:00 p.m. at town hall**

[Note: Minutes are not final until approved by the Commission, usually at its next meeting.]

Call to order by acting chair Goodrich at 4:10 p.m.

Stepenuck agreed to be secretary pro-tempore.

SCC members present: Gary Coburn, Theresa DiLuzio, Bob Goodrich, Jane Johnson, Mike Morrison, Steve Stepenuck

Leaving ca. 5:30: Morrison; Leaving ca. 5:50: Johnson.

Absent: Deb Crowder, Ric Dell'Erba

**1. Officers:**

After considerable discussion of this matter, which has been postponed for months, the following agreed to serve, and were elected by acclamation:

Chair: Bob Goodrich

Vice-chair: Steve Stepenuck

**2. June minutes:** Since it proved very difficult to produce a copy of those, and the latest entry in the bound notebook in town hall was for April, consideration of the June minutes was deferred to the next [August] meeting.

During that research, several incorrect statements in the May minutes were noted [by Johnson, et al.] and should be corrected.

**3. BOS response to letter from GG Lilly:** DiLuzio read from the BOS minutes of June xx [?].

An SCC rep [DiLuzio...Stepenuck was supposed to have been there, but had not gotten the meeting on his calendar, and forgot it] met with the BOS on June 11 to explain that the SCC has been working on a plan for stewardship, had engaged consultants, and had approved the recommendation of Extension Service forester Steven Roberge to remove invasive plants and tall trees like pines, maintaining the property as a scrub-shrub wetland, a cover type that has become rare in southern New Hampshire due to development. That plan was submitted to the BOS, which had subsequently approved it.

Stepenuck noted that he had earlier [27 April] replied to Lilly that the Commission had been working on the matter of a management plan, and a sign, for the property for several years.

**4. Riley property:**

a. Discussion relative to signs and posts at that property resulted in a motion to change the wording of the sign for that area so as to drop the "floodplain management area" line from the sign. Moved: Stepenuck; seconded: Johnson.

Vote: 6-0-0-2.

It was further decided by acclamation to have Francis Faulkner install the sign on a suitable post. Location: near the gatepost, sign parallel with the road; and far enough from Matthews Road and the access road so as to not interfere with snow removal or other traffic. It is believed that sufficient funds have already been authorized to cover the post and installation.

DiLuzio will contact Faulkner to advise him of these decisions.

b. There was unanimous agreement to move to implement the proposal from Jeff Taylor of Vegetation Control Services to selectively spray the Japanese knotweed, glossy buckthorn, and other invasives on this property, leaving native vegetation. [the exact cost will depend on the time required to do the job, but will be in conformance with his earlier estimates.]

DiLuzio will inform Mr. Taylor of this decision.

c. Stepenuck reported that the meeting with DPW director Lee Dunham had taken place, with sjs the only SCC member there. The proposed location for "launching site B" was shown to Dunham, but the trace of a road that was obvious in April was now not visible. Dunham was skeptical whether preventing vehicular access to the brook bank area could be achieved with just a few boulders or logs. Otherwise, there would seem to be little to do beyond obtaining and erecting some signs.

**5. Roselma T. Tucker subdivision:** SCC did not see conservation-related issues to this proposal, so had no comment.

## **6. Reports from representatives:**

a. Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee [ARLAC]: Stepenuck had not been able to attend the June meeting, and no minutes have yet been received. He did attend training for this season's stream monitoring program, as did former SCC member Paul Daniello. This year's dates for monitoring the river [and by us on the South Branch] are June 25, July 23, Aug 20 & Sept 17. Mike Morrison participates in the mainstem monitoring, as do former SCC members Paul Daniello, Sandy and Rick Allen, and Barbara Skuly [who runs the whole program for the Ashuelot].

Stepenuck had sent the results of the June monitoring to SCC members, and to Shane O'Keefe. South Road had the most fecal bacteria this time.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification and Monitoring Workshop -- Thurs, Aug 1, 7- 9 p.m., KSC Sci Ctr (Rm TBA).

b. Open Space Committee [OSC]: DiLuzio reported that the "grand opening" of the newest upgraded section of the Rail Trail was very well attended. The OSC is also actively planning events for the Old Homestead celebration period.

c. SouthWest Regional Planning Commission-Natural Resources Committee [SWRPC-NRC]: Morrison reported that the SWRPC wants to know what the member towns expect of or want from it, and will soon be sending out a survey.

## **7. Mail:**

a. Letter from Michael Finley to DES on behalf of Michael Pratt: The letter was read.

- b. Robert Goodell complaint: probably resolved with DES.
- c. Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd, Minimum Impact Wetlands/logging application:  
The location description “map 90 9/3 and 4:3” was undecipherable, so the location could not be established. However, if it is south of Atkinson Hill Rd, as suspected, there is a permanent stream there that must be respected.
- d. Coverts project workshop: Apparently this had previously been reported.

**9. Other business:**

a. Appointments: DiLuzio reported that despite her continued hospitalization, the Board of Selectmen [BOS] had reappointed Deb Crowder to the Commission.

b. River access and minimization of erosion associated with that: Stepenuck had forwarded the response to his request for more information about implementation of the “rain garden” idea and erosion control at the Cresson Bridge river access site. He and DiLuzio had met there, along with Johnson, but the NRCS rep was sick, and did not show up. Most of us still feel that some professional help is needed to implement this. Johnson offered to contact a planning board member who does landscape design work, to try to get some more guidance.

c. David Roy bill [\$500] for work on Honey Hill property: has been received, and had been previously approved for payment.

Morrison had to leave at 5:30; Johnson at 5:50.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Stepenuck, secretary pro-tem