

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2013

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 4:53 p.m. Committee Members Present: Jane B. Johnson, Gary Coburn, and Mike Morrison.

ABSENT

Deb Crowder, Richard Dell'Erba, Stephen Stepenuck

MINUTES

Minutes were not reviewed.

OTHERS PRESENT

Town Administrator Shane O'Keefe and Fire Chief Norm Skantze

OLD BUSINESS

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) Wetlands Plan

The Committee reviewed the NH DES Wetlands PBN Plan as revised October 23, 2013 for the planned park at the former West Swanzey Athletic Association site (Map 57, Lot 50) in West Swanzey adjacent to the Ashuelot River. O'Keefe told the Committee that he is authorized to sign for the Board of Selectmen but if the Conservation Commission doesn't sign, the plan doesn't get expedited.

Goodrich requested that the following section of the document be noted in the Minutes (Section 12. Conservation Commission Signature (Expedited review only))

"The signature below certifies that the municipal conservation commission has reviewed this application, and:

1. Waives its right to intervene per RSA 482-A:11
2. Believes that the application and submitted plans accurately represent the proposed project; and
3. Has no objection to permitting the proposed work."

There was a brief discussion regarding waiving its rights and all agreed that the waiver was acceptable.

Motion was made by Morrison to sign the NH DES Wetlands PBN Plan as revised October 23, 2013 for land in West Swanzey adjacent to the Ashuelot River and authorize the Chair to sign for the Commission, second by Coburn. Discussion included Skantze suggesting that canoe access concerns were addressed by the modifications done on October 23, 2013. Skantze said that the plan is satisfactory to him. All were in favor, the ***motion passed***.

Next meeting is Tuesday November 5, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall. To be followed with a meeting and public hearing with the Board of Selectmen at 6:00 p.m. This replaces the regular November meeting that would normally be held on Monday, November 4, 2013.

OTHER MATTERS

Pappas property at Cobble Hill and State Route 10

Johnson said she drove around the Pappas property where a Dollar General retail building is proposed at the corner of Cobble Hill and State Route 10 and the land is wet in the rear of the property. It is not wet where the building is proposed to be constructed but she said she was concerned. Johnson asked if the Commission members would attend the Planning Board to discuss this further.

O'Keefe noted that Town Planner Sara Carbonneau has sent notices to the Conservation Commission Chair in the past regarding Planning Board meetings for proposed site plans and would do so once again.

Discussion continued on whether the proposed development impacts the wetlands. Johnson explained that the land has been subdivided and while the proposed building will be on one lot, the other bordering South Winchester is wet. Chief Skantze said that the engineer on the plan has stated drainage will remain on the property. Morrison said that if there isn't any wetland where the proposed building is planned for construction, then there isn't anything of interest to the Conservation Commission. Goodrich noted that NH DES has been involved in some wetlands in the neighborhood. No further action planned.

Fords Road property adjacent to wetlands

O'Keefe informed the Commission members that seven properties have been acquired by the Town by tax deed. He specifically mentioned property on Fords Road which he recently inspected and found to be surrounded by wetlands. He noted that there is swampland less than 10 feet from the property. He suggested that the property might be kept by the Town for wetlands.

Morrison noted a wetlands scientist could be retained to delineate the wetlands. O'Keefe went on to say that the Town can sell the land. He continued saying that whoever lived there had not paid taxes in many years. Normally the Town would want to recoup the taxes, but the Town might want to keep the land for wetlands. The Commission members were open to this idea.

Goodrich raised a question about how much land the Town actually owns. A brief discussion was held regarding a parcel of forest land in Westmoreland owned by the Town.

Morrison **moved** to adjourn, seconded by Johnson, all were in favor. **Motion passed.**
Adjournment at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary