Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH
Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2025

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 meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Cheri Domina at 4:01 p.m. Committee members present: Chair Domina, Bud Winsor, Bob Goodrich, Jay Ward, Nancy Karlson, Wally Smith and Bonnie Hart.

ABSENT
Alternate Jane Johnson and Mark Scalera

OTHERS PRESENT
Dick Drew, Richmond CC

MINUTES

- The commission members considered the meeting minutes for February 3, 2025. There was a **motion** by Karlson to approve the Minutes as presented. There was a second to the motion by Ward and no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

PUBLIC INPUT

OLD BUSINESS
Project Updates
Black Belt LLC—they were denied for a septic system setback variance by ZBA. They can bring a new application with a different septic plan. They are returning to ZBA tonight for a special exception on their driveways.

All Purpose Storage project on Base Hill Road—Project is still tied up in court and the clock has paused on their permit application. The ZBA disallowed their project under 2024 rules; warrant articles will change language, but they are still under 2024 rules for their permit.

Sweep Up Swanzey—Email received from Rec Dept. that they are organizing for April 12/13. We will help get word out & Jay will discuss with Interact Club (they already clean Rte. 12 2x a year). Domina will consider donation to raffle. We are hoping people can be flexible with bag pickup and town pickup of bags, as few people stopped in on that weekend to get bags last year.

ConCom Members—Wally and Jane and Bob have been sworn in. Domina will ask Katrina to update web page.

NEW BUSINESS
Open Space Planning 2025 Contract—Moosewood forwarded this morning. We'll have the town look at it.

- Will we be able to modify and update maps produced? Will they interface with the town's GIS system? Will the layers be updated in real time?
- Are three meetings included in the price?
- Discussed how to get input from residents on conservation priorities. Can we do a survey? Forums?
- Can we get digital copies of the NRI and Ecological Assessment to post online?
- Will ask Jeff to attend next meeting.

Discussed our process working with Moosewood Ecological with Dick Drew from Richmond ConCom.

Wetlands Ordinance Amendments—Domina said she will convene work group in March, and that Chad Branon of Fieldstone is on board to advise.

Conservation Land Acquisitions Fund—this is a Capital Reserve Fund, managed by the Trustees of Trust Funds, that requires town approval for expenditures. What are the criteria for using this fund? Domina will ask. Fund balance at year's end, $215,791.

Swanzey Lake Watershed Management—Winsor said Jason Cooper from SWRPC is meeting with the work group March 25 re: grants.

Discussed dock bubblers on several people's docks, keeping ice open in winter so dock can stay in. Some people complained they cannot safely access ice. Wondered if it affects lake ecology – maybe more just a safety issue and insurance liability.

Red Pine Scale—Winsor discussed findings of this invasive insect in area trees. Has been found in Yale Forest. Will cause total mortality of red pine in town. Domina said she would contact our forester re: presenting a program on invasive insects (new forester coming in 2 months). Will Yale Forest be removing red pine?

Next Meeting: April 7, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ward to adjourn, second by Hart, without further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment occurred at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheri Domina, Chair

DRAFT