Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
**Conservation Commission Meeting**
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH
Meeting Minutes – April 7, 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 4:03 p.m. Committee members present: Chair Domina, Bud Winsor, Bob Goodrich, Mark Scalera, Nancy Karlson, Wally Smith and Bonnie Hart. Assistant Planner Stephon Mehu. Chair seated Wally Smith for Jay Ward.

**ABSENT**
Alternate Jane Johnson and Jay Ward

**OTHERS PRESENT**
None

**MINUTES**

- The commission members considered the meeting minutes for March 3, 2025. There was a **motion** by WInsor to approve the Minutes as presented. There was a second to the motion by Goodrich and no further discussion. All were in favor; Scalera abstained. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC INPUT**
Wally Smith noted that Amendments 8-10 were passed easily by the voters in March. The majority of residents supported wetlands protection, even without the Selectmen's recommendation. He felt good about the chances of a new ordinance passing.

**New Business**
**Review for ZBA**

1. 49 Spring St. DADU – the Commission had no concerns
2. 95 W. Shore Rd. home extension – the Commission had no concerns, but recommends the homeowner install an infiltration trench, dry well, rain garden or something similar to ameliorate extra roof runoff. Karlson noted there has been a lot of construction on the lake in recent years, of large homes, and we haven't had an opportunity to comment on most of them.

**Richardson Park Improvements**—Mehu reported on the status of improvement plans for park drainage. The Swanzey Lake Watershed work group is working with Jason Cooper from SWRPC on grant applications to tackle projects in the Watershed Management Plan, and could add park improvements in. Winsor asked about plans that Jasmin had in the files re: improvements at the park, some of which were done by professionals at a symposium a couple years ago. Mehu said the plan had been done by Fieldstone Consultants, and the Rec Dept. had suggested design edits due to interference with the play area for summer camp. No funding has been identified yet. Mehu will look for Jasmin's file.

**Swanzey Uncovered** deadline May 2—Domina said she would work on something and run it by the Commission. Wally suggested a "Did you Know?" section for educational purposes.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**Sweep Up Swanzey—**April 12/13. There will be a drawing—Domina asked all to help get out the word.

**Open Space Planning Update**

1. Wetland Conservation District amendments—Domina discussed work being done by she, Ward, Hart and Victoria Ames on updated ordinance.
2. Open Space Plan 2025 Contract – Domina said the town attorney had given the go-ahead for the contract. Jeff Littleton had answered our questions via email. Mehu said the contract is on the BOS agenda tomorrow; Domina will go talk to Selectmen, but Town Administrator said we did not need them to vote to approve. Discussed story map vs. searchable GIS data map like Jaffrey has (which isn't in our contract). Domina said she'd talk to the Planners to make sure we aren't duplicating anything we already have available. Want to make sure we add value. Scalera noted timetable – final report due March 2026.

   **Scalera made a motion to approve the Moosewood Ecological contract for $16,000 to complete the open space plan (allowing Domina to sign), provided the Selectmen raise no issues on Wed. Smith seconded. No further discussion; all in favor. Motion passed.**

**Forestry & trails at Mt. Cresson—**Hart will email all and trail crew to pull together another date for a site visit to look at trail, now that snow has melted.

**Swanzey Lake Watershed Management plan update—**Winsor commented that many action items from the management plan have been taken care of by the town and landowners; the work group plans to inventory where things are at, and work with SWRPC on grants to fix remaining issues. Because of town's work last season, E. and W. Shore roads are in very good shape this spring. Would Mehu know if there is state help for failing septic systems?

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Winsor noted he is now on the board of the Monadnock Conservancy, and invited the CC members to a meeting at Pilgrim Pines May 28, 5-7 pm.

**Next Meeting:** May 5, 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by Karlson to adjourn, second by Winsor, without further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment occurred at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheri Domina, Chair

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