Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH
Meeting Minutes – July 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 p.m. Committee members present: Chair Domina, Jay Ward, Bob Goodrich, Bonnie Hart, Bud Winsor and Mark Scalera, and alternate Wally Smith. Chair seated Wally Smith for Nancy Karlson.

ABSENT
Nancy Karlson, Jane Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT

MINUTES
- The commission members considered the meeting minutes for June 2, 2025. There was a **motion** by Smith to approve the Minutes as presented. There was a second to the motion by Winsor and no further discussion. All were in favor; Hart abstained. ***Motion passed.***

PUBLIC INPUT
Goodrich noted logging taking place on Arrowcrest Drive. They did file paperwork at Town Hall to do it. Their subdivision permit has expired by now. Goodrich said he did call Town Hall to follow up; Adam Paquette was going to get back to him.

NEW BUSINESS
Wantastiquet-Monadnock Trail Coalition—Domina had emailed members a brief report from Mike Kowalczyk about the commission's work in Swanzey; they requested our annual donation. Last year we donated $150.
- Ward moved to award the Coalition $150 again; Smith seconded. Discussion about $200, but it was noted they get funding from many sources and we've already given more than requested. All in favor – approved.

Review for Planning Board / ZBA / Town
A. Furlone Subdivision, Old Homestead Hwy—Can't make out which is the new lot and where is the line. Why is it being subdivided? We have no concerns with the subdivision we can ascertain.

B. Airport Solar I & II, Variances for large solar arrays in residential and rural/ag zones. Will it be just as it is in the photos? Discussed some concerns about state-listed birds in the airport grasslands—development around the airport is chewing away at this rare habitat. Will the site be lit? Mowed? Will a state permit be needed? Also, will this solar array benefit Swanzey at all, or just Keene? It would be good to hear from Revision Solar. This is otherwise a good use of these properties and members are glad to see solar development locally.

C. Eversource T198 line Special Exception—This is a huge project involving multiple new towers and access roads in the floodplain/wetlands, and no one is here to discuss with us. Domina noted that there does

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seem to be a lot of oversight by NH Fish & Game, and work will only be done in the wetlands October-April. Would this project go through the Conditional Use Permit process next year if the amendments pass? Questions: Will the new or improved gravel roads be gated, or will they encourage trespassing and nefarious behavior? Will some roads be removed when work is done? What about old tower pads no longer being used? Will some material be removed? Will get more info at the ZBA or Planning Board meetings.

D. 3 Pitcher Point, Wilson Pond, Variance for setback—The proposed new deck is facing the road and not encroaching further into the shoreland zone; however, it is all within the 125' zone, and is adding to the impervious surface there. Potential for more roof runoff and sediment carried to pond. Again, we will comment that this should be mitigated to protect public interest and health of pond.

OLD BUSINESS

Old Home Day, July 19—Discussed plans for booth. Domina said she was striking out at finding turtle display materials, but would continue looking; a number of ideas suggested. We need to do some wetland education and talk about buffers and why important. Hart and Ward can help set up; Winsor can do afternoon; Scalera will check in for relief.

Wetland Conservation District amendments—Domina thanked those who attended joint meeting with the Planning Board June 26. She received updated amendments from Paquette this morning; not much time to review. Members of work group agreed to have another meeting to peruse Paquette's updates. Questions about what needs to be in the ordinance vs. the site plan regs. Once we have another draft, we can go back to ConCom/Adam then to Selectmen. Should we take them for a walk? Tempesta is the Planning Board liaison.

Forestry & trails at Mt. Cresson—Domina and Alan Gross walked another portion of the trail, and agreed they both liked the "New Up Trail" better than the "New Down Trail" for either ascending or descending the hill. Domina suggested we get a quote from Meadowsend for reconstructing a loop involving just the "New Up Trail". Link to rail trail is still in question—does a good spot exist that's not too steep? Questions for Jeremy Turner: How will the trail be constructed – by hand or machine? How long will it take? Can they trim some hemlocks to open up the view? We also need to reroute the beginning of the trail on the west side, to avoid the wet area. Parking lot should also be improved. Domina will contact Turner.

Summer Programs—Hart still interested in offering walks.

North Winchester St. update—Domina said she revisited the site with Gomarlo, and wrote a memo. Gomarlo approved, and members approved also. Will send to Selectmen.

Swanzey Lake Watershed Management plan update—Winsor said Jeff Lapid met with Joe DiRusso of DPW, and he was not in favor of the free engineering study that SWRPC could do on Talbot Hill Road. Winsor thinks the Swanzey Lake Assoc. should get it done anyway. He reported that NH Fish & Game approved the granite memorial bench for Bill Stetson at the dam; dedication is July 19 at 11 am. Swanzey Lake assoc. annual meeting is July 17.

OTHER BUSINESS

Scalera said that Wilson Pond needs a watershed management study like Swanzey Lake had. Could we motivate the town to apply? Last time, Matthew Bachler worked with SWRPC to apply. Could we ask SWRPC about it?

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Next Meeting: August 4

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted, Cheri Domina, Chair

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