Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH
Meeting Minutes—November 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 4:00 p.m. Committee members present: Chair Domina, Bob Goodrich, Jay Ward, Nancy Karlson, Mark Scalera and Bud Winsor and alternate Jane Johnson. Johnson was seated for Hart.
Also present: Stephon Mehu, Assistant Town Planner; Jane Kennedy

ABSENT
Bonnie Hart

MINUTES
The commission members considered the meeting minutes for October 6, 2025. Ward asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that he had not called the State yet re: Wilson Pond but planned to. Goodrich also pointed out that James Lane's Map & Lot # were incorrect. **There was a motion by Ward to approve the Minutes with changes noted. There was a second to the motion by Karlson and no further discussion. All were in favor except Scalera & Winsor, who abstained. *Motion passed.***

NEW BUSINESS
Review for Planning Board / ZBA / Town

A. Site Plan Review / Home Based Business – Patten Oil, 42 Monadnock Highway. Mark Patten is proposing a 1,350 square foot parking area to park his two oil trucks and one box truck. This property is over a highly transmissive part of the aquifer. Members agreed that even though there would be no pumping or repairs conducted here, that potential for large leaks is there, and tanker trucks should be parked on some type of containment pad (such as used at the airport). Three trucks should be the max allowed; if Patten should decided to park more, he should have to return to update the permit.

Swanzey Uncovered—Domina said she would write something to run by members, and include a section on Swanzey Lake Assn work. Will write about the new wetland amendments too.

Lane property review—Domina reported that she had met with Lane and Mike Johnson and walked the land. Discussed Lane's objectives and the property and next steps.

Donations to Conservation Fund IMO Wally Smith—Received another $25 donation IMO Smith.

Motion by Ward to accept all past and future donations in memory of Wally Smith to the Swanzey Conservation Fund. All in favor – *motion passed*.

Holiday event Dec. 14 @ Tempesta's—Domina noted all volunteers are invited and RSVP details are coming.

NH Stream Crossing initiative—Winsor and Domina attended the Cheshire Co. Conservation Commission Potluck October 16, and heard a presentation on Building Resilient Stream Crossings. Winsor said he would send a link to the DES Stream Crossing website, which has an interactive map of Cheshire Co. culverts and crossings. Scalera mentioned that granite blocks have collapsed in the culvert near Wilson Pond Rd. and Sunset Point.

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Monadnock Region Natural History Conference Nov. 15@ Keene State—Domina mentioned this is a great event to attend.

NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions dues—$350 annual dues is due 3/31/26. Domina and Winsor could not attend the Nov. 1 annual conference after all.

Motion by Scalera to pay the $350 dues after Jan 1, 2026. Winsor seconded. All in favor – *motion passed*.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual monitoring of Honey Hill & Mt. Cresson & more—Ward said he had submitted his report to LCIP after he and Goodrich walked the boundaries Oct. 16; gave a hard copy to Domina. No one else came with them from the public. No changes near the perimeter; they marked some boundaries with flagging to make it easier next time. Domina said she and Hart walked the boundaries of the town-owned part of Honey Hill Oct. 19—no issues or signs of use. She will connect with Victoria Ames on her portion. Mehu asked about state monitoring of Muster Field; Domina will send their report to him.

Wetland Conservation District amendments—Domina discussed final changes made after review by town attorney. Added sentence to D1 pointing out that where state law is more restrictive, it still applies. State law still protects smaller wetlands from dredge and fill.

Ward made a motion to approve the final (Oct. 9) version of the wetland conservation district zoning amendments. Winsor seconded. All in favor – *motion passed*.

Mt. Cresson Trails—Ward and Goodrich said trail markers are up, but Meadowsend has not indicated the job is complete. Concern about some erosion in the lot & driveway after heavy rains. We need to review the trails to see how they did. Jane Kennedy said she'd like to come. She wants to see the old connection to the Matthews Road maintained. She also mentioned that Yale Forest is harvesting red pine now, due to the scale infestation. Domina said that Meadowsend offered to work with us on maps and a kiosk—we can discuss onsite. Will plan a site visit after hunting season, weather permitting.

Facebook page—Domina said she's started one and will post soon

Partridgeberry Lane property—Ward reiterated the landowner's ideas, but no contact from him yet.

Swanzey Lake/Wilson Pond News—Winsor said that the Swanzey Lake work group is talking with SWRPC about an engineering study of Talbot Hill Road if the town will participate. Discussed new legislation allowing houses on Class VI roads if landowner signs a waiver re: town services. Could a town still get sued because of this? Discussed aerators that allow people to leave docks in over the winter; they create open water and danger for winter recreation. Are landowners liable if someone falls in?

Next Meeting: November 3

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ward to adjourn, second by Johnson, without further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment occurred at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Cheri Domina, Chair

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