Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH
Meeting Minutes—December 1, 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, Bob Goodrich, Jay Ward, Nancy Karlson, Bonnie Hart, Mark Scalera and Bud Winsor and alternate Jane Johnson.
Also present: Stephon Mehu, Assistant Town Planner; Ed & Michele Mack; Jeff Littleton (via Zoom)

MINUTES

The commission members considered the meeting minutes for November 3, 2025. **Motion by Scalera to approve the Minutes. There was a second to the motion by Goodrich and no further discussion. All were in favor except Hart, who abstained. *Motion passed.***

NEW BUSINESS

Partridgeberry Lane property—Landowners discussed property abutting Mt. Caesar that they'd like to see conserved. Ward will set up a site visit for members and meet with town administrator to discuss.

Barry Conservation Camp sponsorships—Camp sessions are $700/$500 this year. We had many students apply last year and had to choose from a hat, but gave one scholarship in each amount. Domina will advertise the scholarship.

Ward made a motion that we spend up to $1,200 for two scholarships to Barry Conservation Camp in 2026—the choice will depend on who applies. Winsor seconded. All in favor—motion passed.

College Scholarships—Did not give one last year, and were told by guidance staff that our guidelines were too narrow. Discussed rewording the criteria to be broader and delivering straight to the science teachers. Stephon said he would help.

Scalera made a motion to offer the $1,000 scholarship in 2026, with qualifications as amended. Ward seconded. All in favor—motion approved.

Review for Planning Board / ZBA / Town

A. PB—Lot line adjustment and subdivision plan, 373 Monadnock Hwy & Marcy Hill Rd. Mehu discussed the plan and maps—no comments.
B. PB—Storage Building Development, 373 Monadnock Hwy & Marcy Hill Rd. Mehu discussed the plan and proposed building. Goodrich asked if their septic had been state approved, and would be large enough. There are wetlands surrounding the project. Domina said planning staff sent these plans via email an hour before the meeting; no one had a chance to review them. Conservation Commission requests more time to review at January meeting.
C. PB—Twinkletown parking lot expansion, 3 Arrowcrest Dr. Mehu discussed the plan and proposed building. Parking lot is right next to a wetland. Domina said planning staff sent these plans via email an hour before the meeting; no one had a chance to review them. Conservation Commission requests more time to review at January meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Open Space Plan maps—Jeff Littleton sent maps via email earlier, and spoke briefly via Zoom with members. Domina will call him later for more details.

DRAFT

Wetland Conservation District amendments—Planning Board public hearing is Dec. 4 (not the 11th). Discussed our message; Domina will prepare some comments. No reaction to Facebook posts. Next we need to meet with Selectmen.

Facebook page—Domina has made several posts, and asked if anyone would be a co-admin. Hart offered, but said she's not on FB lately.

Mt. Cresson Trails—The trails are done; Domina said she's walked the entire loop, and Scalera has been to summit. Domina said that with the leaves down, it's easy to see how to go across the slope to connect with the rail trail. Will ask Mike Kowalczyk what that entails. View from summit is great. Some complaints about the water bar and entrance being rough on cars with low clearance. Meadowsend did not re-route the beginning of the trail upslope of the wet area as requested; Domina will talk to Jeremy Turner. Discussed Meadowsend's offer to do a kiosk and maps—will ask for examples, and discuss further at a site visit in January. Could do some QR code markers at various spots like vernal pool and avenue of oaks and cut areas.

Hart said someone has opened up the Mt. Caesar summit view – who?

Swanzey Lake/Wilson Pond News—Winsor said that a No Wake Buoy has been approved by the state for Swanzey Lake entrance. Ward said he's contact NH Fish & Game about access designation, without much success. If it's officially a private pond, the DES won't offer assistance.

Next Meeting: January 5

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ward to adjourn, second by Winsor, without further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment occurred at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Cheri Domina, Chair

DRAFT