Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH
Meeting Minutes—January 5, 2026

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 4:09 p.m.
Committee members present: Chair Domina, Jay Ward, Bonnie Hart, Bob Goodrich, and Bud Winsor.
Also present: Stephon Mehu, Assistant Town Planner

Absent: Nancy Karlson, Mark Scalera, alternate Jane Johnson.

MINUTES

The commission members considered the meeting minutes for December 1, 2025. **Motion by Goodrich to approve the Minutes. There was a second to the motion by Ward and no further discussion. All were in favor. *Motion passed.***

NEW BUSINESS

Public input—Goodrich asked whether the gravel parking lot being built at the Asher Construction project on Safford Drive was being built according to the plans we saw. Were they supposed to do so much excavation? Mehu said he'd look at the plan.

Review for Planning Board / ZBA / Town

A. PB—Twinkletown parking lot expansion, 3 Arrowcrest Dr. Several members attended a Planning Board site visit earlier today. Winsor and Goodrich said that the wetlands adjacent to the parking lot have been illegally filled in over time. Will the new ordinance or old ordinance apply to this project? Mehu said he'd check with Adam Paquette. Agreed that this project is too close to the wetland—within 10-20 ft. as proposed, and buffer is mowed. It would appear the planned parking lot could be shifted east and moved away from the wetland; a storage container could be moved, and there are only 1-2 trees in the way. Buffer would be best unmowed to catch runoff and debris. Domina also noted that there is a covered area on bare dirt where mowers and equipment are stored less than 20 ft from the wetland. Dumpsters on bare ground too—is that a problem? Hart noted that this is a potential ponding area on Moosewood's new Flood Prone Areas map. Is the planned infiltration trench enough to channel water in the event of a big rainstorm? Better to have the parking lot unpaved—will request that it remain so.

B. PB—Storage Building Development, 373 Monadnock Hwy & Marcy Hill Rd. This project is also unnecessarily close to the wetland and should be moved "inland." A 50-ft buffer or 75 ft. setback should be attainable. Is there a plan for drainage? Some concerns about the big, uncovered dirt piles all over the lot, too close to wetlands as well. Will the storage building have a bathroom? If so, no septic plan. Goodrich questioned whether the driveway constructed since 2021 toward Marcy Hill Road was permitted; it appears wetlands were filled there and a culvert placed. This whole area was also built atop filled wetlands, members said.

Swanzey Annual Report—due Jan. 20. Domina will create something and run by members.

OLD BUSINESS

Barry Conservation Camp sponsorships—Two applicants: Zachary Jardine, 11; and Dylan Kerylow, 15. Kerylow has received scholarships before. Both boys want to go to fishing camp. Domina said she advertised a lot on various

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Facebook pages, but not in *Shopper News* or elsewhere. Ward said next year, his wife can help get word to additional families. Goodrich suggested kids visit us after camp to talk about the experience.

Ward moved that we award the $700 scholarship to first-time applicant Jardine, with the remainder ($500) to Kerylow. Goodrich seconded. All in favor—motion passed.

Open Space Plan maps & draft report—Jeff Littleton sent maps and draft goals and report outline to review. Discussed all and offered suggestions for improvements. Domina will send comments to Littleton. Littleton had asked for help with the conservation lands map; Ward and Hart volunteered to work with Mehu to do a town property list and narrow down potential conservation lands belonging to Swanzey already. Reviewed the Goals section: Domina offered to rewrite several goals with simpler language.

Wetland Conservation District amendments—Planning Board voted after public hearing Dec. 4 to send the amendments to the warrant with their recommendation. Barbara Skuly of ARLAC was only voice at the public hearing; she questioned why we were rolling some protections back. Domina said it was a compromise, but we still felt that overall the amendments would create a stronger ordinance. Self also defended the ordinance.

College Scholarships—Domina talked to the guidance counselor at MRMHS and sent the updated scholarship info along. Will check on where it's at and advertise it.

Mt. Cresson Trails—Domina said Jeremy Turner will send a crew back to do the re-route near the trailhead to avoid the wet area. Laura French at Meadowsend sent us several examples of kiosks/maps they have done for various clients. Members agreed that a simple map and kiosk would be nice, but we need to make sure all trails are in place before mapping is done. What is her time frame? Will put off a site visit until conditions improve.

Ward moved that we approve paying the November 4 Meadowsend invoice for $3,000 from the Mt. Cresson Fund. Hart seconded. No discussion, all in favor. Motion passed.

Swanzey Lake/Wilson Pond News—Winsor said that ice fishermen have attempted to fish Swanzey Lake a few times in the past couple years, but that the lake is closed to ice fishing. Should we do a Facebook post?

OTHER BUSINESS

Mehu suggested we do a plant swap this year. Domina said we could get plants from the State Nursery.

2026 Work Plan—what should we tackle after the Open Space Plan is finalized? Discussed town-wide trail map and signs at our trails, using a coherent look so people could identify them.

Next Meeting February 2

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Goodrich to adjourn, second by Winsor, without further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment occurred at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Cheri Domina, Chair

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