Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH
Meeting Minutes—July 6, 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 4:01 p.m. Committee members present: Chair Cheri Domina, Jay Ward, Bob Goodrich, Bud Winsor, Mark Scalera, Bonnie Hart, Alternate Jane Johnson. Johnson was seated for Nancy Karlson. Others present: Asst. Town Planner Stephon Mehu, Susanne Whittemore, Terry Lewis, Thoris Lewis, & Bryce Raynor, EZCrete.

Absent: Nancy Karlson

MINUTES

The commission members considered the meeting minutes for June 1, 2025. **Scalera makes a motion to accept minutes. Ward seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Review for Planning Board / ZBA / Town

- **Home-based business, 69 James Rd.** Discussed proximity of brook to building—40 ft. to corner. Also 80 ft. from stream to parking area. Terry Lewis addressed plans for the existing building; they want to use it for yoga classes, herbal classes etc. a few times a week. The building was approved for an ADU. Ward unconcerned due to no new construction and appropriate septic. Lewis said the bank is stabilized with knotweed. Members agreed that there are no concerns about the project. Domina wondered if the use of the property changing should trigger a conditional use permit – unclear in ordinance, and Adam Paquette didn't seem to think so.
- **EZ Crete, 127 Monadnock Hwy.** Bryce Raynor said they are trying to create more flat space for storage around the building, by excavating fill from the hill behind and depositing it in the front of the building, toward the wetland. He presented two options for expanding and would like clarification on how to maximize his space while staying within the WCD regulations. Ward and Domina explain the Conditional Use Permit process and WCD setbacks of 50 ft. with a vegetated buffer or 75' setback without. Drainage control would be needed with the steep slope. He may need a conditional use permit, depending on how close to the wetland he decides to develop.

Caterpillar Lab sponsorship at Old Home Day (July 18)—Ann Heffernon from Old Home Day Committee requested $100-$400 sponsorship to bring the Caterpillar Lab to Old Home Day.

Scalera moved to provide $200. Johnson seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

Swanzey Lake Host Funding for 2026—Swanzey Lake Protective Association requested additional funds from town this year, but too late for the budget process. We did not receive a request until the town asked us for funds last month.

Scalera moved to give our usual $1,500. Ward seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

Ashuelot Rail Trail Signage—Mike Kowalczyk requested a donation for signage needed for the rail trail with the grand total being $4,115. Some concerns about the amount. Ward suggests having him attend the next meeting to address questions: Are all the signs located in Swanzey? How immediate is the need? Can existing signs be re-used? Is he likely to get other sources of funding? Other members are in agreement. Domina will request he attend.

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OLD BUSINESS

Open Space Plan Update—Domina reported Jeff Littleton said May and June have been completely occupied with fieldwork, and he should be able to start making our edits the week of July 13. Domina says fall is likely for a public meeting at this point.

Americorps—Mehu spoke with contact for Americorps. Quoted at estimated $15k for 10 days work. The town would have to budget for next year; may be able to use the next round of Recreational Trails Program grants.

Mt. Cresson—Joe DiRusso updated Domina and said that gravel was put in and weedwhacking was done at the trailhead. Domina received an invoice from Meadowsend and had spoken to Jeremy Turner with concerns with the amount due; he had agreed last season to do the trail re-route, and we paid the agreed-on amount in November. Domina said he agreed to split the bill, since they did a little more than what was requested last season.

Scalera made a motion to pay Meadowsend up to $300 for work done to reroute the end of the trail. Winsor seconded. No further discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

Partridgeberry Lane—Ward has researched language from deeds of other properties left to towns in a will. He's prepared to provide the language to the owners so that they may provide it to the lawyers to have the will adjusted.

Swanzey Lake/ Wilson Pond—Ward and Scalera have concerns over the amount of bladderwort present in Wilson Pond. This year has been significantly worse. It's a native plant, but seems to be choking some areas of the pond. Ward says someone is coming to evaluate it.

Winsor says VLAC report came back for Swanzey Lake water testing, but additional time is needed to provide more information. The work group is still working with SWRPC and town in hopes of using the On-Call Engineering program for Talbot Hill Road. The Swanzey Lake Association meeting is upcoming. Discussed concerns about the amount of fireworks displayed at the lakes due to the subsequent water pollution. Can we educate people not to do this on the lake?

Next Meeting: August 3

ADJOURNMENT

Johnson makes a motion to adjourn. Ward seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed. 5:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Bonnie Hart & Cheri Domina, Chair

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