

**Meeting of the Douglas Open Space Committee January 9, 2024, 2 PM at the Douglas Municipal Center.**

Members Present: Sue Perkins, Kathy Richards, Lisa Mosczynski, Gordon Larrivee

S. Perkins opened the meeting at 2:10 and stated that the meeting was being videoed.

**Minutes:** Review minutes from 12/12/2023 meeting. Tabled until next meeting.

**Castle Caves, #118-2, into Conservation Property:** L. Mosczynski sent to members the Chapter 97 process from Grafton to guide us on how to do it. She will write a letter to the Conservation Commission listing the values of the property and why it should be in Chapter 97 protection. Their next meeting is Jan. 22. L. Mosczynski will submit the letter to them and ask them to put this on the agenda. Motion by S. Perkins, seconded by G. Larrivee. All in favor.

**Trails Committee:** Looking for volunteer's article posted in the New Uxbridge Times. Two replies so far. Issue of S. Perkins not getting Open Space emails. Invite volunteers to our next meeting and have it in the evening so they can attend. Project to tackle will be the Leon Mosczynski Conservation Property as the last site walk turned up quite a few downed trees and sections of the trail that need brushing back. Have the volunteers fill out the waiver form. Get the updated form sent to Jenn to post on our website. Plan on setting up a spring date for a trail workday. Check with Conservation Agent on best practices. That is now Brandon Faneuf.

**CPA committee - preparation for November election:** S. Perkins willing to help organize to get on the ballot for November. Will research on the process and who else to bring in for the different components of CPA (historical/ housing/etc.) L. Mosczynski needs to do write up. Who was on the committee last time? Follow up with them. Use CPA website for resource information.

**Keegan site walk; quote by 1/26/24 for Town Meeting vote:** What is the amount that we need to ask for to get parking and trail access established? S. Perkins will talk with M. Benoit about the process and our budget needs (i.e.: supplies for volunteers, projects, trail markers, etc.). Are there other areas to establish parking and access – possibly off Vine St.? The site walk showed some old cart roads. One stream crossing to get to the other side of the property that still must be explored. Using a trail design company would help with the guidance on what to do (i.e.: ADA compliance) and create a concept plan.

**New Sherborn property and Conservation Commission follow up:** Conservation Commission was reviewing first three lots at last night's meeting. S. Perkins did not see the outcome. Thinking that using common drives might be helpful in protecting core habitat in that area. Will follow up with M. Benoit about the common driveway bylaw.

**Projects / Grants: warrant for request for \$ before 3/2024 TM:** Previously discussed above.

**Walnut St. Access to Conservation land; easement vs. fee:** L. Mosczynski spoke with town administrator and went over some options. She will follow up with the owner to see what they can come up with. Maybe something for the May town meeting. Procedure: once the town opens the warrants, we can place a holder spot for an article. As an aside to follow up with Conservation Commission to funding for Keegan property also.

**CMRPC Map - workshop to review / share with Con. Comm:** In depth look at what that quadrant has to offer and come up with concepts to present to the Conservation Commission. Workshop date Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> at 2pm.

**Access to Manchaug St. from Mumford St. Cons. area (#142 is.6 ac.):** S. Perkins will check to see who owns and would it be available for access to town owned property.

**Old & New Business:**

OLD: Open Space Plan submitted on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.

High priority items in OS & Rec. Plan

Chapter 61 owner outreach

Flow chart for Chapter 61

Master Plan / Gordon

OS October \$300 expense

Chapter 61 dropouts (Brouillette): Get current list from Assessor's to see who dropped or new additions.

Matt Benoit

Drop Box

NEW: Matt B. is back. Is he going to do the annual report for Open Space Committee this year?

CMRPC is holding a meeting at the Northbridge Town Hall tomorrow night to get input, feedback, and comments regarding the state of air pollution in the area.

**Rolling** -Land clearing bylaw for conservation wetlands, old growth forest, Keegan property, flexible development by law changes. Winter project (trails/stewardship committee and list of short-term projects). May Annual Town Meeting (budget request for at least two paper copies of the Open Space & Recreation Plan).

Next Meeting: Feb. 13, 2024, 7PM

Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:00 by L. Mosczynski, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Larrivee. All in favor.