

**Meeting of the Douglas Open Space Committee March 12, 2024, 7 PM at the Douglas Municipal Center.**

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

S. Perkins opened the meeting at 2:05 and stated that the meeting was being videoed.

**Minutes:** Review minutes from 2/12/2024. Motion by G. Larrivee, seconded by K. Richards. All in favor.

**Keeven Conservation property:** Sign for property has not been made. J. Couture looking for some place to make it. Funding: M. Benoit let us know that the request for funds to create a parking lot/trail plan is on the warrant for the Town Meeting in May. Notify Conservation Works to let them know it is on the town warrant. S. Perkins will ask to get on the agenda with the Conservation Commission to update them about the work that we are asking Conservation Works to do.

**Community Preservation Act (CPA) adoption action:** All boards have been contacted. The Conservation Commission and Planning Board both want to know what they are required to do. S. Perkins will follow up on this with them. Also, explain to M. Benoit what it is as he is not familiar with it. Ask Anne Mazer from Mendon to come and speak to anyone that is interested in learning about how the CPA works. D. Skinner offered to help with the CPA committee. Invite him to the information meeting.

**Potential trail work assessment days:** Saturday 3/16 or 3/23? Meet at 10am on 3/16 at the parking lot for the Leon Mosczynski Conservation Area. Discussion on some questions regarding what we can do for trail work, need to follow up with Brandon Faneuf.

**Old & New Business:**

OLD: S. Perkins will be attending the Board of Selectmen's meeting tonight. Fish & Game purchase of property in town is on the agenda.

Castle Caves getting it into Chapter 97. We wrote a letter to the Conservation Commission in Jan., and they never got back to us. The Conservation Commission bumped it to the Board of Selectmen. Noticed that there is no email contact on website for the Conservation Commission, this makes it hard to communicate.

Follow up; are we a bona fide committee? S. Perkins asked M. Benoit about this. He thought we were. Per our by-laws, we are not. What is Mendon's by-law language? Ask the town administrator about this too.

Budget: currently \$100. What do we need? Can we "tap" into the Conservation Commission's budget for projects?

Nothing new on 296 Yew St.

NEW: Going before the Planning Board – New Sherborn LLC to get exemption from Scenic Road by-law. Oak Street (Scenic Road) is also on the agenda for tree removal. Might think about beefing up Scenic Road status concerning violations.

Gravel Removal article. Passed, but must be approved by Attorney General within 90 days. AG has requested another 90-day extension, which means at this point we do not have a current gravel removal by-law.

Question on clear cutting house lots. Can it be required to only take down trees that need to be taken down? We currently don't have a by-law for that.

Going before the Board of Selectmen is the Conservation Commission fee changes.

The new Douglas State Forest supervisor will be starting the first week of April. Joe Taylor.

**Next Meeting:** April 16, 2024 2PM

**Rolling** -Land clearing bylaw for conservation wetlands, old growth forest, Keevan 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).

Share results from workshop with Conservation Commission.

High priority items in OS & Rec. Plan

Chapter 61 owner outreach

**Executive Session:** Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A. Section 21(a) (6), to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiation position of the public body. Interest in Real Property – Walnut Street.

L. Mosczynski recommended passing over.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 2:45 by L. Mosczynski, seconded by G. Larrivee. All in favor.