

Meeting of the Douglas Open Space Committee May 21, 2024, 7 PM at the Douglas Municipal Center.

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

S. Perkins opened the meeting at 2:03 and stated that the meeting was being videoed.

Minutes: Review minutes from 4/16/2024. Motion by L. Mosczynski, seconded by B. Kalagher. All in favor.

Trail walk on April 22: G. Larrivee walked with Brandon Faneuf. L. Mosczynski and S. Perkins joined in later. It looked possible to get closer to the river at the beginning of the trail. Suggested to design trail with educational component. Mark the little loop to the river, back, and have B. Faneuf review it.

Reconnaissance dates for Briarwood Circle, M.L. Dube Con. Area, Keevan Con. West of stream: Question regarding Keevan project and the approved funding in the budget. Funds will be available July 1. Three estimates needed and Request for proposals (RFP) will be through M. Benoit's office.

Leon Mosczynski Con. Area. Town received call from abutter that people are parking on street instead of the parking lot and trespassing on private property. Signage needed to direct users to the trail and directional parking sign(s) at the edge of the road. Does the Conservation Commission have the money in their budget for this?

Hemlock St. Foreclosure discussion: Per M. Benoit, notice of intent received 4/16 from the bank to foreclose. Property valued at \$700,000+. Hoarding situation would require money to clean up. The Planning Board & Con. Com. voted no interest in the property. Going before the Selectmen next Tuesday.

Possible pluses: Fields for agricultural use or community gardens, disk golf, local trails.

Landowner permission is needed to view the property. Two people could visit and ask. Meet at the town hall on May 28th at 2pm.

Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee follow up: Next meeting May 30th at 7pm. This will be a sub-committee of the Open Space Committee. Open Space appoints sub-committee members. Ask last meeting attendees to be on the committee. Goals; education, possible citizen petition to get on ballot, need secretary.

Sutton/Douglas; L. Mosczynski thinks on the town warrant is the transfer to town that hasn't happened yet. The area is a NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species. Trail possibilities unknown.

Castle Caves: Finance committee voted against transferring property into Chapter 97.

Old and New Business:

Old: Sutton/Douglas development. The Board of Selectmen should sign off on transfer of land to the town at their next meeting on May 28th. There are a couple of access points in Douglas at Mumford Road and Conservation Drive. Question asked if the developer would help with signage, etc. M. Benoit stated that there have been no conversations about that yet.

Castle Caves into Chapter 97: Passed over at Town Annual Meeting.

New Sherborn: filed a road improvement along with subdivision plan. Two on Orange St., nine on S.E. Main St. for ANR lots. All approved

New: Thomas Circle revitalization, (Evergreen Estates). Will have to get all new permits since the existing permits have expired. Abuts Tinkerville Brook Conservation Area.

Next Meeting: May 30, 2024 7PM at Municipal Center for CPA gathering.

Next Open Space meeting: June 11, 2024 2 PM

Rolling -Land clearing bylaw for conservation wetlands, old growth forest, Keeven property, flexible development by law changes. Winter project (trails/stewardship committee and list of short-term projects).

Share results from workshop with Conservation Commission.

High priority items in OS & Rec. Plan

Chapter 61 owner outreach

Motion to adjourn meeting at 2:53 by L. Mosczynski, seconded by K. Richards. All in favor.