

Meeting of the Douglas Open Space Committee March 11, 2025, 2 PM at the Douglas Municipal Center.

Members Present: Sue Perkins, Kathy Richards, Becky Kalagher, Gordon Larrivee, and Dick Skinner.

S. Perkins opened the meeting at 2:02 PM and stated that the meeting was being videoed. Introductions made.

Review minutes from Feb. 18, 2025, meeting: Motion by S. Perkins to accept minutes as corrected, seconded by K. Richards. G. Larrivee abstained. All in favor.

Dick Skinner now an alternate, can he vote? S. Perkins to check on that.

AARP Grant due before March 5th: Pass the deadline.

Restrictions on conservation lands: No restrictions except commercial use. Ideas of a community garden that usually has a fee would make it commercial.

Keewan Property Update: Warrants submission deadline is March 7th. We are #10 on the warrant. Site plan approval: per M. Benoit since the parking lot is not being paved as site plan is not needed. Question on whether the highway department could do the work. Per M. Benoit follow up, they cannot. B. Kalagher will do more exploratory work on the other side of the Keewan Stream to find the best trail route. K. Richards & G. Larrivee offered to come.

Leon Mosczynski property update: Maintenance: D. Skinner talked with Adam, they will do the maintenance consisting of keeping the parking lot brushed/trimmed back and the path on the side of the road from the parking lot to the trail entrance cut back.

Open Space Plan suggestions shared with those listed as doers: S. Perkins met with departments with the prioritized list of items in the Open Space Plan.

Town meeting placeholders: \$16,000 for Keewan parking lot and clearing access trail to get into property. Castle Caves – no.

Gilboa St property uses: MTV grant identified this as a seed project. Focusing on the river guides this as the choice. Must go out to the public to vote for the final project. Start date would be next spring if the grant goes through.

Conservation Drive letter: Thank you letter to the Cherrier's. L. Mosczynski will write that up.

Old/New Business:

OLD: Castle Caves jurisdiction under the Board of Selectmen-tabled.

D. Skinner's suggestions – kiosk, porta potties, golf carts and larger committee: Kiosk-still looking for best way to get information out about open space properties.

Porta potties-we don't provide them for state properties.

Golf cart purchase- G. Larrivee suggested proof of concept plan with insurance and liability. Check to see if the Conservation Commission would permit it.

Larger committee-better to look at subcommittees such as the trail committee we have.

NEW: On the spring warrant: Whitin Heights development, 20 acres to go to open space, only access is through retention basin.

D. Skinner asked about planting flowering shrubs on open space property. Asked for list of native plants.

Next meeting April 8, 2025 at 2pm

Adjournment

S. Perkins moved to adjourn at 3:05 PM. G. Larrivee seconded. All in favor.