

Wendell Open Space Minutes

Monday, January 27th, 2025

Remote via Zoom

Attending: Daniel Leahy, Adam Porter, Carolina Méndez

Absent: Raymond DiDonato

Guests: Grace Albert (Gate Lane Resident), Don Cloutier (Gate Lane Resident)

Clerk: Ashley Penna

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM by Daniel Leahy.

Approval Minutes:

(Leahy/Porter) Motion to approve the December 16th, 2024 minutes as revised.

(3 in favor/0 opposed/1 absent.) Motion carries.

New Business:

40 Gate Lane property. Abutter has requested time to speak.

- Grace Albert, resident of Gate Lane, shares that she continues to have drainage issues from the abutting Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) property and as a result her property requires long term and continued road maintenance. It is reminded that the Open Space Committee is not in the position to make any decisions in regards to the maintenance of the discontinued road.
- Albert shares the idea of a possible revision of the building as an aviary for birds with gardens for residents to recreate. Members remind Albert of the discontinued road and the special premium that the town is paying as the property is a hazard and someone can be injured.
- It is reiterated to Albert that the Open Space Committee does not have decision-making authority; it is only empowered to make recommendations to the Conservation Commission and to the Selectboard.
- Albert continues to explain the water runoff from the DCR lands that are making streams onto her property. She would like to have them put in a culvert to divert the water into the correct spot. Leahy recommends contacting Dan Clark at DCR about the road construction, and the Wendell Conservation Commission to be sure that the wetlands are not being manipulated, to seek a determination on what can and can not happen.
- Albert proposes posting 'no hunting' signs on the property as she has seen two hunters per day this hunting season.

40 Gate Lane and Davis Road Town owned properties - next steps

- Next steps for the Committee would be to contact the Town Coordinator to be put on the agenda for an upcoming Selectboard meeting to discuss the property. Dan Leahy agrees to contact the Town Coordinator to be put on the agenda. Members would like to be sure that the Treasurer is also in attendance as the Committee members discuss how

to move forward with the Gate Lane and Davis Road properties. The first project would be Gate Lane, followed by the Lyon's Brook property. At the meeting, members would like to ask the Selectboard to have title work done for the Lyons Brook Parcels on Davis Road and Mormon Hollow Road, if it has not yet been done, to gain more information.

- Members would like to share with the Selectboard that further steps to secure the properties, in particular authorization and a timeline for site cleanup, require their participation, as a town meeting vote would be needed to secure funding. Members would like to attend the Selectboard meeting on Wednesday, February 19th, prior to the February Open Space Committee meeting on February 24th, 2025.

Update on Presentation by Robert G. Goodby author of "A Deep Presence 13,000 years of Native American History"

- Dan Leahy has not yet responded to Goodby about confirming the presentation. Leahy has checked with Ed Hines from the Wendell Historical Society who confirmed that both dates, March 18th or March 20th have no conflicts. Leahy will contact Hines to finalize a date and check in with the librarian to confirm and schedule.

Possible meetings with the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board

- The purpose of meeting with the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board would be to provide them with printed copies of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and to discuss the work that was done in drafting the Plan and what might be helpful to their group specifically.

Items not anticipated within 24 hours

- Dan Leahy's appointment will expire in June 2025, and he will not seek reappointment to the Open Space Committee as Chair or a member. Members would like to create a list of priorities for the Committee prior to Leahy leaving.
- Dan Leahy will contact the Finance Committee and request a FY26 budget of \$1,200 for the Open Space Committee.
- Leahy shares a report from the feasibility meeting for a proposed shared-use path along the Millers River. Committee members Dan Leahy and Carolina Méndez were in attendance at the meeting. There is great concern about the scale and scope of the bike path and infrastructure. Members look at a PDF version of the proposed path. Leahy will forward members a link of the presentation shown at the meeting.
- Leahy has forwarded a realtor listing for a Stone Road property to Nick Rossi, DCR land agent, for possible conservation. The property was no longer listed as of the time of the meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment: (Porter/Leahy) Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39pm.
(3 in favor/0 opposed/1 absent.) Motion carries.

Submitted by Ashley Penna.