

DOVER OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 2, 2023 7:30 pm via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Amey Moot (Chair), Mark Adamczyk, Henry Faulkner, Boynton Glidden, Carol Lisbon (Planning Board), Greg Kahoun, Tara Nolan, Justine Kent-Uritam, Connie Sullivan

Absent: Jerry Arnold (Liaison, Long Range Planning), John Jeffries (Liaison, Board of Selectmen), Val Lin, Christy Violin (Conservation Commission)

I. Minutes: Minutes of March 7, 2023 and April 4, 2023 meetings approved as amended.

II. Trail Easement on 6 Village Hill Road (12-3-B) as part of Taylor Estates In-depth discussion of specific existing easement at 6 Village Hill Road, its current inactive status and potential for possible connection to active trails in the future. The status of trail easements in general was discussed for their value to the community, preservation of space and for better understanding of public and private trails. The committee agreed that trails should not be relinquished without thorough investigation and consideration and discussed continued efforts to understand the entirety of easement networks in the township. The consensus was to recommend to the Planning Board that no existing easements be extinguished or released at this time and that a process for evaluation be created first. In relation to 6 Village Hill, Amey was tasked with looking into whether there was a trail at the far end of the easement.

III. Conservation Commission Request to BOS for Title Transfer of Various Lots - Detailed discussion regarding OSC and Conservation as sole Dover land management committees and determining appropriate committee to be accountable for Town-owned unassigned parcels. Motion made and seconded with universal agreement to endorse transfer of listed Town-owned Tax-Taken Parcels and other listed Town-owned land from BOS/Town to Conservation Commission.

IV. Update on Conway Report to Tree Preservation Committee - Discussion of ongoing tree clear cutting, particularly by developers. Finalization of Conway School report due end of May 2023. Results expected to be posted on town website. Currently looking for grants.

V. Updates from Relevant Boards

A. Open Space Committee

(1) **Public Walks** - Successful walk of Powisset - Hale (South) April 8, 2023. Upcoming:

- 2nd Saturday Stroll, Hale (North), Saturday May 13, 2023 10:30 am - Noon
- Larrabee - Hale, Saturday June 10, 2023
- Caryl - Noanet - Hale long walk, Saturday July 8, 2023
- Noanet - Hale, August 12, 2023 (Leader TBD)
- All Saturday Strolls: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/saturday-strolls-in-dover-217389>

(2) **The Trustees of the Reservations (TTOR)** - upcoming events:

- Spring Seedling Sale, Powisset Farm. Saturday May 6 -Sunday May 7, 2023 10 am- 3 pm
- Couples Cooking: Steakhouse, Powisset Farm, Friday May 19, 2023 6 - 8:30 pm

(3) **Dover Land Conservation Trust (DLCT)** - Nancy Greene appointed Exec. Secy.

(4) **Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust (UCCLT)** - Continued focus on stewardship and contending tree issues. 14 acres in Medway assumed by UCCLT resulting from a CR with life estate.

(5) **Mass Audubon (MAS)** - MAS currently retains Audubon name, as does National Society despite random regional associations' renaming. Discussions continue.

(6) **Elm Bank** - MA Horticultural - Tulip Mania continues through Mid May. www.masshort.org

(7) **Hale - CR, Outreach & Education** - upcoming events:

- Hale Poetry Night, Wednesday May 5, 2023 6:30-8 pm
- Hale Conservation Coffee, Wednesday May 10, 2023 7:30 pm <https://hale1918.org/cr>

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- Live! At Hale: Music at the Barn, Thursday May 11, 2023 7:30 pm
- Adult Mountain Biking Clinic - Hale, Saturday May 20 - <https://hale1918.org/explore/events/>
- (8) **Norfolk Hunt Club (NHC)** - upcoming events:
 - NHC Annual Gala “Ranglers [sic] & Rhinestones”, Thursday May 25, 2023.
 - 112th Norfolk Hunt Horse Show. NHC Steeplechase Course, 240 North St., Medfield Saturday May 27, and Sunday May 28, 2023 8 am - 4 pm
 - Norfolk Hunter Pace, Medfield Sate Hospital, Hospital Rd., Medfield Sunday June 4, 2023

B. Conservation Commission - Bringing minutes current. No developers before commission.

- (1) **Land Management working group** -
- (2) **Trails** - See above
- (3) **Other** - See above Section III

C. Planning Board

- (1) **Tree Preservation Committee** - Search continues to fill one committee opening reserved for developers. Suggestion made to seek possible candidates via Town Building department referrals.
- (2) **Trail Easements** - See Above Item II
- (3) **Other** - Positive Town Meeting May 1, 2023. Search continues to fill vacant town planner positions, continued vacancy of which will impact 2024 fiscal priorities:
 - (1) Tree Preservation bylaw
 - (2) Village Center zoning and planning continues.
 - (3) Bylaws being reviewedHopes to have Bylaws for Village Center and Tree Preservation available for May 2024 Town Meeting. Discussion of existing Bylaws being antiquated in some circumstances and need of an external consultant for full zoning diagnostic review to ensure state and federal compliance. Working with Board of Selectmen regarding MBTA Communities Act, following April memo from AG’s office to relevant MA communities, to ensure Dover’s compliance with state regulations by scheduled due date 2025.

D. Parks and Recreation - no updates. <https://www.doverrec.com/348/Parks-Recreation>

E. Board of Selectmen

- (1) **“Water” committee - Water System Sustainability Plan** - Discussion of follow through on water sustainability studies and status of groundwater resources in absence of an active water committee. The BOS continues to confer with Board of Health.
- (2) **Drought Management Task Force** - Presently no Drought conditions. Monthly monitoring. Justine has volunteered to join Task Force & report to the BOS on it.
- (3) **Recreational Trail** - no updates
- (4) **Caryl Community Center** - Bid received at \$25,000,000. Special Town Meeting June 3, 2023, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Mudge Auditorium, Dover Sherborn Regional School
- (5) **Other** - Troutbrook & Edgewater potential 40B - No new updates

Next Meeting; Tuesday June 6, 2023, 6:30 pm in person, Powisset Farm, Dover

Respectfully submitted:
Connie Sullivan