

Killingworth Open Space Committee Meeting (via Zoom)

January 10, 2022

Minutes

Members Present: Mike Parahus, David Hyman, Aaron Dollar, Geoff Picard. Nancy Gorski was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Introductions took place.

Mike Parahus moved to postpone the vote on the minutes from the December meeting until next meeting. Aaron Dollar seconded.

A. Dollar and Nancy Gorski gave updates on the Deer Lake sale. There are two offers – one to conserve the property from the Trust for Public Lands, and one for private sale to Fortitude Capital LLC.

A. Dollar moved to approve the wording of a letter of support for preservation of Deer Lake to be delivered to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration to submit to the Connecticut Yankee Council leadership.

The wording is as follows:

“The Killingworth Open Space Committee finds that the Deer Lake Scout Reservation is a crucial part of the state greenway that runs through our town. As such, it should be a priority for preservation as open space, in keeping with Killingworth’s Plan of Conservation and Development.

That plan discusses open space as follows:

“Along with protection of water quality, permanent preservation of open space is of critical importance in preserving the character of Killingworth, maintaining quality of life for residents, and in stabilizing taxes. Unlike many other towns, Killingworth still has the opportunity to create an interconnected network of open space and greenways throughout the town. . . . A long-term goal is that protected open space should ultimately form an interconnected network of conservation land throughout the town.”

We strongly support efforts to work with the current property owner, the Trust for Public Land and other conservation organizations, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and other local, state, and national entities to ensure that Deer Lake is protected from development in perpetuity.”

Approved by Consensus.

G. Picard opened the floor to discuss any additional properties that should be added to the list for discussion by the committee, but there were no suggestions for this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Dollar, Secretary