

Killingworth Open Space Committee Meeting (via GoToMeeting)

May 8, 2023

Minutes

Members Present: Aaron Dollar, Heather Greenaway, Michael Parahus, Stephanie Warren, Clark Judge, Dave Long, David Hyman, Eric Nunes and Geoff Picard (Killingworth Land Conservation Trust). First Selectwoman Nancy Gorski was not present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

No visitors were present, so no public comments were made.

The Open Spaces committee met in the parking lot at 206 Route 80, behind the Dance Company Studio and DeLuca's Pizzeria. The purpose was to look at two town-owned properties – one an 11.5-acre parcel and the other a 2.2-acre lot that adjoins it – and determine what, if any, future action is needed.

After assessing the two, it was decided that only the 2.2-acre property needed the committee's attention, as it was the one that could be developed. All members walked on to the property, where members discussed the benefit of saving it as open space vs. selling it to gain revenue for another project.

No vote was taken.

Because the property is zoned residential, the conversation veered to options for large landowners interested in protecting their land from future development – with conservation easements a central topic. The board suggested that we meet with lawyers and/or Dave Gumbart, president of the Land Conservation Trust, to educate us. Essentially, we want to learn of tax and legal options for landowners interested in donating properties to the town or in placing conservation easements on them.

No date was decided.

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark V. Judge Jr.

Committee secretary