

OPEN SPACE MEETING – March 9, 2026

Members Present: Messrs. Dlugos, Duch, Bogardus, Esposito, and Morytko

Members Absent: Messrs. Sabatini and Mayor Rubenstein

Also present: Secretary Caitlin Phillips

This meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Mr. Dlugos. The Chair was not present at this time, so Mr. Dlugos started discussion items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Trails Grant Updates / Forestry Projects

Mr. Dlugos discussed the work for the Hudson Farms and CAD properties. They're waiting on Hudson Farms, and CAD is waiting on the town. They seem happy with the flagging done by Messrs. Dlugos and Duch. Mayor Rubenstein needs to provide information to CAD in order to proceed. The grant is due on 05/15. The group discussed trail crossings. Mr. Duch said there have been trail crossings on the Briar Ridge Trail. From Mr. Stoner's memo, the site distances may not match up. He noted that beaches in the area also have trail crossings. The group noted concerns regarding the safety of crossings. Mr. Morytko entered the meeting at this time, and Mr. Dlugos recapitulated the discussion.

Mr. Morytko suggested using an alert sign for the crossing areas. It wouldn't be an official crossing, but more to make the area safer. He noted that they have a good grant application idea. They just need to get the details together. Mr. Dlugos suggested using something like a trails mapping system, and adding that to the grant application request. Mr. Morytko agreed, noting they if the review finds it doesn't fit the scope of work, they can pursue it outside of the grant application. The group discussed marketing for this project. Mr. Dlugos confirmed Mr. Morytko is set to present on the 26th for the grant details. The group reviewed the status of Briar Ridge and Glenside. Mr. Morytko will check in on the mushroom work.

CO Johnson / Dog Park Updates

Mr. Morytko said Mayor Rubenstein has more information about this, but he can note the main points that Mayor Rubenstein discussed with the Planning Board. There was a report for the dog park that found that a copperhead snake was sighted in the area. To continue with the dog park, they need to add snake-proof fencing which is tall, and there are concerns about aesthetics, so this is likely not happening.

Property Foreclosure Updates

Mr. Morytko noted Mr. Dlugos' interest in the area previously discussed, and that it could be of use.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 9, 2026 minutes. Mr. Dlugos motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Bogardus. All were in favor.

OS FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT:

Reserve for Open Space: \$433,516.88. Mr. Morytko noted not much has changed with this.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Morytko and Ms. Phillips noted there's not much from the Planning Board. Mr. Dlugos said he's been working with someone at the elementary school, who has owl and bat houses. If there is interest in an owl or bat house, people can let the Environmental Commission or Mr. Dlugos know. The houses require open space that's near water. He also noted that the Trailkeepers met. They have two new members. Mr. Sabatini recommended to him that their bylaws include specific information. Mr. Duch asked about finances for the group, like stipends to help the volunteers. Mr. Dlugos said they can speak to Mr. Sabatini about this. The bylaws note that they can use Environmental Commission tools.

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OPEN TO PUBLIC

No public was present.

ADJOURN – Motion by Mr. Dlugos, second by Mr. Duch, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. All members in favor. Motioned carried.