



Greenbelt Gazette

February, 2024

Multi-user Mantras

•**Town Open Space alterations.** About 1/3 of the 1,200 acres of preserved town open space has been obtained through development review by the Planning Board. The result –residents enjoy permanently preserved natural lands adjacent to their backyards, for many folks the ideal setting. Protected town open space usually is restricted by deed from alterations. If you live next to town open space, please enjoy, but also keep lawn care on your property. The most common encroachments found on town open space are placement of sheds, play equipment, and worn out equipment, installation of dog fences, removal of natural vegetation with groomed lawns, and deposit of brush and grass clippings in large and permanent quantities. As we approach spring, please take a walk along your property line and relocate/readjust practices to keep open space natural for all.

•**Cross Hill Open Space.** The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust has delivered its annual easement monitoring of open space in Cross Hill. We are happy to report that encroachments have decreased from 40 to 31 properties. We will again be contacting property owners to eliminate encroachments, many of which are dumping of brush and grass clippings and installation of dog fencing.

•**Off season excursions.** Consider visiting some of the town’s open spaces before the growing season starts.

Left: Great Pond last winter



•**Mud Season?** Trail conditions vary with the weather. Please keep this in mind if we get that combination of warm temperatures and rain storms that makes some of our trails muddy treks. Consider using some of our more durable trails.

What's Happening?

•**Great Pond Boat Rack Storage Lottery.** Do you have a kayak or canoe you would like to keep at Great Pond for the season? Fifty-one boat storage slots located at Great Pond are awarded each year by lottery. Boats can be stored from the first Saturday in March till the first Sunday in December. If you are a lucky lottery winner, you are expected to use the boat slot for most of the season. Boat rack applications are available on the town website and in the ACP Office, Town Hall and are due **March 14, 2024**. Over 60 applications have already been submitted.



•**Conservation Ordinance/Events on Town Open Space.** At the February 12th meeting, the Cape Elizabeth Town Council adopted amendments to the Conservation Ordinance, specifically regulating events on town open space. The Conservation Committee will now be able to approve events of up to **250** attendees, subject to meeting minimum safety requirements. Larger events will still require Town Council approval. If you want to host an event on town open space this year, contact the town planner to obtain an application and attend a Conservation Committee meeting.



The Maine Pops concert on the Village Green in 2023, approved by the Conservation Committee.