Doug Hollow Road dispute ends up in court

Oconee County asks judge to resolve rival interests

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WALHALLA — Oconee County has made good on its promise to let a judge rule over a festering property rights dispute between residents and a Lake Keowee restaurant developer.

The McNair Law firm filed a petition Friday at the Oconee County Courthouse asking for a declaratory ruling that county officials hope will put an end to the bickering once and for all.

The Oconee County Council approved a resolution last month directing that the legal petition be filed after officials found themselves in the middle of the dispute.

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Kelley Ridge Road resident Edalene Kelley points to an area where Doug Hollow Road would be relocated.

FILE PHOTO

DISPUTE: Judge to rule on issue

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On one side is Lake Keowee Investors, Inc., which plans to build the restaurant and relocate a section of Doug Hollow Road.

However, Edalene Kelley and members of her family are claiming that they have a deed dating to 1966 that allows them to retain access to Lake Keowee at the end of Doug Hollow Road.

The legal petition signed by McNair attorney Adam Artigliere attests to the legal standoff.

"There exists between the parties an actual bona fide and substantial question in issue and a substantial uncertainty of legal relations requiring settlement," the petition asserts. "Wherefore, petitioner respectfully requests that the court enter its order."

Among other things, the petitions asks the court to:

- Determine whether or not there is a legitimate document granting an easement or access stemming from the 1966 deed that would "impact or cross" Lake Keowee Investors' property;
- Determine whether or not any ownership or claim was retained by the grantors of the 1966 deed or their successors from a portion of Doug Hollow Road into Lake Keowee;
- Determine whether or not there is **any** continuing **right of** access from a portion of Doug Hollow Road into Lake Keowee, and whether such a right, if any, is held by the grantors of the 1966 deed, their successors or the public; and
- Determine whether **or** not any references or requirements exist for **the** provision of any boat ramp or public access to Lake Keowee from the portion of Doug Hollow Road.

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