

TOWN OF MEDWAY
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Medway Senior Center
76 Oakland Street,
Medway, MA 02053
MINUTES

Meeting on January 27, 2009

Present: Patrick McHallam, Glenn Murphy, Dawn Rice-Norton, John Schroeder, Jim Wickis, Tina Wright

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by the Chairman.

1. There were no comments from the public.
2. The minutes of the meeting of October 28, 2008 were reviewed. No changes were proposed. Tina Wright made a motion to approve, Pat McHallam seconded, all approved with one abstention. The minutes of November 25, 2008 were reviewed. No changes were proposed. Glenn Murphy made a motion to approve, Pat McHallam seconded, all approved with one abstention.
3. Land Parcel Review Subcommittee: the Committee will develop a list of properties with open space potential, to guide its planning efforts. The Chicken Brook Ecological Corridor will be the initial focus of this review. The subcommittee is composed of Glenn Murphy, who will gather data on properties and periodically bring this to the larger Committee to establish rankings.
4. 50 Winthrop Street RFP Review Team: a request was received from the Planning Board for a member of the OSC to sit on the team that will review RFPs for organic farming at this site. Pat McHallam volunteered to be a member of this team, during the week of February 17.
5. 2008 Annual Report: John Schroeder and Jim Wickis will write a draft, and send it to OSC members for review.
6. Land Use and Open Space section of the Master Plan Update: Committee members have reviewed this document. Tina Wright made a motion to approve this document, Glenn Murphy seconded, and all present approved this motion.
7. Open Space and Recreation Plan: the Committee reviewed and modified the elements of the five-year action plan. These changes will be sent back to PGC Associates for inclusion in the plan.
8. Charles River Watershed Association: this organization has invited the OSC to join. Jim Wickis made a motion to pursue membership through the CPC, Pat McHallam seconded, and all approved.

9. Report on Williamsburg OSRD letter: John Schroeder reports that the Planning Board thanks the OSC for its recommendations in this OSRD application. There was only one change in the OSC recommendations.

10. Medway Natural Treasures Hunt: Tina Wright reported on the progress being made in developing this activity, scheduled for a weekend morning in the Spring.

11. Newsletter: Tina Wright presented a draft of the second edition of the OSC newsletter. This will be distributed within the town when completed.

12. Photographs of Medway: Pat McHallam reports that the website has started to receive photos from Medway citizens.

13. Letter to state legislators: Dawn Rice-Norton has developed a letter urging support for the Community Preservation Act in the state legislature. This will be sent out from the OSC to our local representatives and senator.

14. Massachusetts Land Conference: the OSC will explore ways for members to attend this annual conference.

At 9:28pm, Tina Wright made a motion to adjourn to executive session, this was seconded by Pat McHallam. This was approved by John Schroeder, Pat McHallam, Tina Wright, Jim Wickis, Dawn Rice-Norton. The next meeting will be on March 3, 2009, at 7:00pm at the Senior Center.

Submitted by Jim Wickis, Clerk, Vice-Chair

TOWN OF MEDWAY
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Medway Senior Center
76 Oakland Street,
Medway, MA 02053
MINUTES

Meeting on March 3, 2009

Present: Patrick McHallam, Glenn Murphy, Dawn Rice-Norton, John Schroeder, Jim Wickis, Tina Wright; guests Gino Carlucci, PGC Associates; Paul Marble, Finance Committee; Jim Wieler, Master Plan Update Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by the Chairman. The first portion of the meeting was devoted to a Public Hearing for the proposed new Open Space and Recreation Plan(OSRP). Public comments were taken from those in attendance, and the comments that had been submitted by email were reviewed.

The entire OSRP was reviewed, and this discussion was led by Gino Carlucci. From the input from citizens and Committee members, additions were suggested, and these will be implemented by Gino Carlucci. An example of the discussed items was the need for protection of current open space parcels and how this might be accomplished.

The OSRP, in its draft but near-completion form, will be sent to the MAPC for review. After that review, the plan will be sent to the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, in the Division of Conservation Services.

At 8:09pm, the public hearing was closed, and the regular session of the Committee continued as a public meeting. Items from that session follow.

1. The minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2009 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Dawn Rice-Norton, seconded by Tina Wright and approved by all members.
2. Land Parcel Subcommittee ratings: Glenn Murphy led a discussion on devising a strategy to rate the large number of parcel with potential open space value. It was decided to try an approach where will gather information on several parcels adjacent to Choate Park. This information could then be used by the OSC to rate their value.
3. Annual report 2008. This was reviewed by the Committee. A motion to approve the report was made by Tina Wright, seconded by Dawn Rice-Norton and all members approved the motion.
4. Presentation to Community Preservation Committee. This was postponed to March 9, and the Chairman will report on this at the next meeting.
5. Chicken Run update. Tina Wright reported on the many developments of this event. It will involve many groups of young Medway citizens and run from 10:00am to noon on May 2. There will be no charge.

6. Chicken Brook corridor, map and ownership. Pat McHallam led a discussion of the best approach to developing this map. It was decided to go with Chapter 61 overlays, with no owners identified. Pat will bring his computer-based interactive map to next meeting to allow for ratings of parcel open space value.
7. Web site update. Pat McHallam described the possibility of adding trail information to the site. It was decided to walk a trail, in warmer weather, gather information and photos, and place this on the web site. The first trail will likely be the one that runs from Choate Park to the High School.
8. Massachusetts Land Conference. Several members will attend and report to the Committee.
9. 50 Winthrop Street developments. Glenn Murphy reported that representatives of the proposed organic farm met with the Conservation Commission. There was disagreement about the location of the farm and of animals. It is fully expected that agreement will be reached in subsequent meetings.

At 8:59pm, a motion was made by Tina Wright, seconded by Dawn Rice-Norton, with all members voting in favor, that the Committee would adjourn to executive session, and not to return to open session. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at 7:00pm at the Senior Center.

Submitted by Jim Wickis
Clerk, Vice-Chair

TOWN OF MEDWAY
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
155 Village Street
Medway, MA 02053
MINUTES

Special Meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2009

Members present: Patrick McHallam, Glenn Murphy, Dawn Rice-Norton, John Schroeder, Jim Wickis. Visitors: Glenn Trindade, Mark Cerel, Karyl Spiller-Walsh

The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm by the Chairman.

There were no comments from the public.

1. Earth Day/Charles River Clean-up, Saturday, April 25, 9:00am. There are four parcels of land with public access to the Charles River. The "amphitheater" was chosen for the Committee to address. Members will meet at the parking lot at Sanford Mill to clean out trash in the amphitheater area.

2. Natural Treasures of Medway event. Dawn Rice-Norton reported on all the activities that are being developed for this event, such as the use of a radar gun, fitness stations, trail to the high school. It will take place at Choate Park on May 9, from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

At 5:24pm, the Chairman made a motion to adjourn to executive session, not to return to open session. This was seconded by Glenn Murphy. Voting for this motion were G. Murphy, J. Schroeder, J. Wickis, D. Rice-Norton, P. McHallam. Voting against: none.

Next meeting of the Open Space Committee is Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 7:00pm at the Medway Senior Center.

Submitted by Jim Wickis, Clerk, Vice-Chair

TOWN OF MEDWAY
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Medway Senior Center
76 Oakland Street,
Medway, MA 02053
MINUTES

Meeting on April 28, 2009

Present: Patrick McHallam, Glenn Murphy, John Schroeder, Jim Wickis, Tina Wright;
guest: Jim Sullivan

The meeting was called to order at 7:12pm by the Chairman.

1. There were no comments from the public.
2. The minutes of the meetings of March 3 and April 16, 2009 were reviewed. Pat McHallam made a motion to approve, John Schroeder seconded. All approved, except Glenn Murphy abstained from the vote on the minutes of March 3, and Tina Wright abstained from the vote on the minutes of April 16.
3. Land Parcel Subcommittee. An updated map and list of properties larger than 5 acres was presented to the Committee. The procedure for ranking properties' open space potential was discussed, in response to a question of whether a property should be evaluated without the owner's knowledge. It was decided that properties should only be ranked when it becomes available on the market or when some other event causes it to be discussed, especially when it is in the Chicken Brook corridor. The ranking will be done in executive session. A clarification to the Committee's mission was made: the Committee will try to protect valuable land, even if there is no public access at the time of preservation.
4. A letter from a resident to the Committee expressed concern about possible house building on land adjacent to Chicken Brook in the Guernsey and Wellington Street area. The Planning Board has no present applications for development of this land. It was determined that there is no action the Open Space Committee can take on this property, but Pat McHallam volunteered to monitor the situation for activity.
5. The question of how to increase awareness of the need for protected open space was discussed. The possibility of an information letter to the large landowners in town, plus abutters to Chicken Brook will be explored by Glenn Murphy.
6. 50 Winthrop Street. There is one applicant for an organic farm, which is not fully approved yet.
7. Natural Treasures Hike and Hunt. Final details are being completed for this event on May 9.

At 8:50pm, John Schroeder made a motion, seconded by Pat McHallam, to adjourn to executive session, not to return to open session. This was approved by Patrick McHallam, Glenn Murphy, John Schroeder, Jim Wickis, Tina Wright.

The next meeting of the Open Space Committee is scheduled for May 26, 2009, at 7:00pm at the Senior Center, 76 Oakland Street.

Submitted by Jim Wickis, Clerk, Vice-Chair

TOWN OF MEDWAY
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Medway Senior Center, 76 Oakland Street
Medway, MA 02053
MINUTES

Meeting on July 28, 2009

Present: Patrick McHallam, Glenn Murphy, John Schroeder, Jim Sullivan, Jim Wickis, Tina Wright

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by the Chairman.

1. There were no comments from the public.
2. The minutes of the meeting of June 30, 2009 were reviewed. No changes were indicated. Pat McHallam made a motion to approve the minutes, John Schroeder seconded the motion, and all members voted to accept the motion.
3. Report from the Affordable Housing/Open Space Committee ad hoc Joint Working Group: there has been no meeting yet of the members; this report was deferred to a later meeting.
4. Goals. The Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) goals and the Master Plan Update (MPU) goals, open space section, were compared. These two sets of goals are essentially the same, except in three instances.
MPU goal #3, objective 1, reads: "Identify existing and potential trail networks and pursue development of them, including development of current trail system." The phrase, "...including development of current trail system" is not in the OSRP. This additional statement was accepted by the OSC as falling within its responsibility.
MPU goal #3, objective 4, reads: "Increase visibility and public access to conservation lands as appropriate through signage and parking." The phrase, "...and parking" is not in the OSRP. The OSC does not believe that parking is its responsibility or within its power to provide, and can not accept this portion of the MPU objective.
MPU goal 7, objective 2, reads: "Mark boundaries of Town owned land, document any encroachment and notify abutters." The OSC agrees that this is a worthy objective. However, the OSC is an advisory body only, and not an enforcement agency; it cannot mark boundaries and handle encroachment problems. Therefore, the OSC is unable to accept responsibility for this objective.
As a result of this review, the OSC believes that an additional objective should be added to those described in the OSRP. It reads: "All future open space parcel borders will be permanently marked with granite (or other suitable materials)." Since several committee members were not present, all members will be given time to review this additional objective, and possibly accept it at the next meeting.
5. The agenda for next meeting was discussed. Jim Wickis was asked to give a presentation on invasive plants in Medway. This is best done in an outdoor venue, and Idyllbrook Park was chosen as the site of the next meeting.

At 8:27pm, all business had been completed and Tina Wright made a motion to adjourn to executive meeting and not to return to open meeting. This was seconded by Pat McHallam. Voting for this motion were Patrick McHallam, Glenn Murphy, John Schroeder, Jim Sullivan, Jim Wickis, Tina Wright; no one voted against.

Next meeting will be at 5:00pm, August 25, 2009, at Idyllbrook Park.

Submitted by Jim Wickis, Clerk, Vice-Chair

TOWN OF MEDWAY
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Idylbrook Park
Medway, MA 02053
MINUTES

Meeting on August 25, 2009

Present: Glenn Murphy, John Schroeder, Jim Sullivan, Jim Wickis; Guest: Betty Wickis

The meeting was called to order at 5:14pm by the Chairman.

1. There were no comments from the public.
2. Minutes of the meeting of July 28, 2009 were reviewed. No changes were proposed. John Schroeder made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Glenn Murphy seconded the motion. All members present then approved the motion.
3. Open Space and Recreation Plan and the Master Plan Review Update. The Committee's consultant for this plan, Gino Carlucci, says that these two documents are not the same and can differ in some respects. For the OSRP, there is a need for a review of town parks by the town's disability commission. Medway no longer has such a commission. Mr. Carlucci offers to get a disabled volunteer to review parks for access so that the state can approve the plan.
4. Review Status of Committee Objectives. At the previous Committee meeting, an additional goal was discussed. It reads: "All future open space parcel borders will be permanently marked with granite (or other suitable materials)." The Committee now proposes an introductory phrase be added so that the statement reads: "It is our hope that all future open space parcel borders will be permanently marked with granite (or other suitable materials)." And it is proposed that this statement be added to the next revision of the OSRP.
5. Glenn Murphy gave an update on the new town conservation agent. This individual, Patricia Brennan, works part-time for the town, in a sharing agreement with the town of Holliston. She works for the Conservation Commission and is under the administrative supervision of the Town Administrator.
6. Report of community school project. This was postponed to the next meeting.
7. A discussion of whether to hold the next meeting at the CPA session in the legislature was discussed, without resolution.
8. Invasive plants. The negative impacts of invasive plant species and the identification of such species in Medway was presented by Jim Wickis.

At 7:05pm, John Schroeder made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Glenn Murphy. All members approved. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 29, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Senior Center.

Submitted by Jim Wickis, Clerk, Vice-Chairman

TOWN OF MEDWAY
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Medway Senior Center, 76 Oakland Street
Medway, MA 02053
MINUTES

Meeting on October 27, 2009

Present: Patrick McHallam, Glenn Murphy, John Schroeder, Jim Wickis, Tina Wright;

Guest: Mike Francis

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by the Chairman.
2. Comments from the public. Mr. Mike Francis wanted to discuss the use of the abandoned rail bed, and he delayed his comment until that topic was undertaken.
3. The minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed, but an insufficient quorum was present to approve them.
4. Update on legislative hearing on SB 90. Three members of the Committee-John Schroeder, Jim Wickis, Bruce Hamblin-attended the rally and the public hearing to support the passage of this bill. SB90 has been developed to better support the Community Preservation Act, by stabilizing at 75% the funding ratio provided by the state government. The concern of the OSC is to soon leverage some of the CPS funds for establishing open space parcels.
5. Abandoned rail bed. Mr. Mike Francis described this rail bed as excellent for family outings and easy hikes. He questioned why a portion is for sale and asked if any is open to the public. The legal status of the rail bed is unknown to Committee members and it is unclear whether any of it is open to the public. The Committee decided to explore whether the town owns any of it and if so, whether an easement can be developed to protect it for public use. Accordingly, Tina Wright will draft a communication expressing this recommendation to the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen, via email, and a follow-up visit by the chairman, who will ask for clarification and a give a recommendation for public access.
6. New open space mapping. Pat McHallam reports that the current map can be updated, as parcels are added. A discussion ensued about which current open space parcels should be added. Pat will upgrade the map, for review at the next meeting.
7. Update on new zoning changes. These were not available at the time of the meeting.
8. A new ethics package, for all public officials, was given to Committee members.
9. Williamsburg OSRD. Jim Wickis will review the definitive plans for this project, and report on it at the next meeting.
10. Seacord property. The chairman reports that he wrote a letter, over his signature only, to the Planning Board supporting a sub-division of that property. This would allow for a possible use of the bulk of the property as open space.

11. OSRP. The chairman reports that he obtained CPC approval for Gino Carlucci to proceed with a disability review of current town properties used as open space. This should lead to the final draft of the plan.

At 9:04pm, John Schroeder made a motion to adjourn to executive meeting, not to return to open session. This was seconded by Pat McHallam. Voting for this motion were John Schroeder, Patrick McHallam, Glenn Murphy, Jim Wickis, Tina Wright. Voting against: none.

Next meeting is November 24, 2009, at 7:00pm at Sanford Hall. This is a combined meeting with the Planning Board. After meeting with that board, the OSC will have its own meeting.

Submitted by Jim Wickis, Clerk, Vice-Chair