

**The Town of Medway**  
**Open Space Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes on July 31, 2018**

Medway Senior Center  
76 Oakland Circle  
Medway, MA 02053

<b>Attendance</b>	Tina Wright	Jim Wickis	Denise Legee	Charlie Ross	Joanne Williams	Mike Francis	Bruce Hamblin	Brian Cowan
Present	X	X	X	X		X	X	X

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm.

**Reorganization:**

**Chairman:**

**On a motion made by Bruce Hamblin and seconded by Charlie Ross, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Tina Wright as Chairman of the Open Space Committee.**

**Vice Chairman:**

**On a motion made by Tina Wright and seconded by Charlie Ross, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Denise Legee as the Vice Chairman of the Open Space Committee.**

**Clerk:**

**On a motion made by Tina Wright and seconded by Bruce Hamblin, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Charlie Ross as the Clerk of the Open Space Committee.**

**Oak Grove Task Force Update:**

Member Cowan provided an overview of the recent Oak Grove Task Force meeting which he attended. The town has hired consultants to work with the group to look at the current zoning and to look at innovative ways to develop this area. The plan will include hotel, restaurants, trails, open space, residential and mixed use housing. The next meeting will be in August where the consultant will bring Styrofoam blocks to use as buildings to visual the area with hands on exercises.

**Kiosks:**

Member Legee indicated that four of the open space signs have been installed including several trail signs. The \$10,000 budget currently has about \$1,400 remaining. The open space signs are \$400.00.

**Adams Ecology:**

Member Wickis provided an overview of the ecological health of the Adams Meadow. He has observed the swallow birds flying back and forth which is a sign they are feeding and there is insect life. This indicated that the meadow is a healthy habitat. There is a problem with the wild parsnip and bittersweet vine. The edge of the trail was recently mowed by the DPS.

Member Ross would like Member Wickis to provide a narrative about the Adams Meadow so it can be placed on the Facebook page.

### **GRANT INITIATIVE:**

The Open Space Committee was informed about a grant initiative which could involve getting access from Village Street to the Amphitheatre. There was a meeting with the Conservation Agent. She is in support of this initiative. The DRC also agrees this would be a good grant opportunity. There was discussion about if this would need to be engineered. There was previous work completed on this by Tetra Tech. It was suggested that another site visit be done.

The options to consider would include the following:

- Have a landscape architect design the project with stabilizing the slope.
- Having a general contractor with experience in construction view the site.
- Involve the ideas of a civil engineer background.

The Chairman will speak to Matt Hayes about to get his ideas.

### **Oakland-Area and Rail Trails:**

The committee discussed the old landfill behind Oakland. It's currently unclear how much is on town property and how much on the land-locked private parcel behind the park. The possible trail routes behind the parcel would traverse the private parcel. There are also no survey markers. There needs to be continued research.

The committee also discussed the existing trail that heads south from the park to the well area and the former rail bed. Two short segments cross private property. The lots are on Oakland Street and are bisected by a wetlands area. Before publishing any route here, the town would need to get permission, either informally from the neighbors, by obtaining an easement, or by purchasing parts of the land behind the wetlands.

### **OSRP Plan:**

Member Wickis provided the members with a seven-year action plan which was derived from the Open Space Recreational Plan. This plan has 53 action items and 34 of those have Open Space Committee as the lead. All members agreed that there would need to be a hired employee to make sure that these action items get completed. Upon review of the plan, all agree that the Open Space Committee cannot be solely responsible for completing the baseline reports or complete the management plans for the town owned land, conservation areas and open space.

Suggested Ideas on how to handle this document include:

- What should OSC do to help to develop strategy to implement?

- Go to CPC with the priorities and come up with solution.
- Have a meeting with the involved departments and a break out session with those who created the document.
- Send an email about concern about concern of open space taking the lead on some of the items.
- Item #13 regarding grants. The Committee thinks there should be a staff member who submit the grant applications.
- The document should be a guide but not a binding document.
- The Medway Trail club should not be listed as the “lead” in the document, as they are a private organization and not part of the town.

The Chairman will send an email to Susy regarding the various questions they have regarding the seven –year plan.

Member Wickis will email the members the list which was provided at the meeting.

The Open Space Committee discussed setting up an additional meeting with the OSRP goals and actions as only agenda item.

### **Other Business:**

- Member Wickis will follow-up with the Conservation Agent about the gray birch and white pine trees which appear to be dying.
- Member Wickis is working with DPS on creating a range of activities which could be done as part of the seniors tax write off program. The Open Space Committee recommended that member Wickis could be the resource person for the seniors.
- The new Parks Superintendent is Steve Carew. He will be invited to the next Open Space meeting.
- Letter of support for the OSRP Plan. The Committee is in support of letter but want clarification on the leading departments/committees indicated in plan.

### **Acceptance of Minutes:**

#### **June 5, 2018:**

**On a motion made by Charlie Ross and seconded by Denise Legee, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes from June 5, 2018.**

### **Future Meeting:**

- September 4, 2018

### **Adjourn:**

**On a motion made by Charlie Ross and seconded by Jim Wickis, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Sutherland  
Recording Secretary  
Approved September 4, 2018