

**The Town of Medway  
Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes on May 21, 2019**

Sanford Hall  
155 Village Street  
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

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The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:27 pm.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**  
**April 2, 1019:**

**On a motion made by Joanne Williams and seconded by Denise Legee, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the April 2, 2019 minutes as amended.**

**Update on Charles River Meadowlands Initiative:**

Jim Wickis and Denise Legee attended the community forum on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Jim reported that the group's consultant was looking for feedback on their data. At one point, Jim asked a question and the answer provided was incorrect. This leads to concerns about the overall validity of the data presented.

**Joint Preparation of Draft Management Plan for Choate-to-Adams:**

This was the primary purpose of the meeting, and the reason the committee met at Sanford Hall rather than the Senior Center, so they could jointly work on a draft using the projector.

Charlie Ross presented a proposed template based upon the Amphitheater plan presented last month by Jim Wickis. The template is designed to be more "fill-in-the blank."

The committee discussed the various sections and agreed upon the following:

1. Introduction: a table containing *property name, location, parcel numbers, area, completed by, last review date, property description, ownership and management responsibility, acquisition history, and wetlands or other regulatory factors*.
2. Strategic Plan for This Property: a prose description of the long-term plans for the property.
3. Major Maintenance Objectives for This Property: High-level objectives around which specific maintenance actions are organized.
4. One-Time Activities Keyed to Major Objectives: A table listing specific one-time efforts or projects, and who would be responsible for each.
5. Ongoing Activities Keyed to Major Objectives: A table listing maintenance activities to be performed on a regular basis, and who would be responsible for each.
6. Additional Details and Considerations for This Property: An optional section where other topics can be expanded upon.

The committee then proceeded to start drafting a plan for the Choate Trail to Adams Meadow area. The committee agreed to exclude Choate Park itself and the school property. However, the wooded area west of Choate, as well as the Adams Street Meadow and the woods south of the meadow, are included.

The committee noted that, in addition to trails, the property includes the following natural resources: woods, wetlands, and the meadow. The goal is to both to preserve/protect the natural resources, promote/provide access, and support passive recreational opportunities. The land currently sees use by multiple user groups, including casual visitors and students from nearby schools. We should continue to enhance, increase, protect, and maintain contiguous parcels to provide a home for flora and fauna for generations to come, maintain biodiversity, and preserve the distinct nature of Medway.

The committee agreed on the following major maintenance objectives:

Objective 1: Maintain safe access to the trail network.

Objective 2: Monitor and maintain the health of the natural habitats.

Objective 3: Implement greater handicap accessibility at the Adams Street Meadow.

A number one-time and ongoing activities were then listed for these objectives.

During the discussion, the committee agreed on the following individual action items:

- Mike Francis will look up the parcel numbers as well as the official wording of the ownership/management responsibility.
- Jim Wickis will provide the property description.

- Charlie Ross will provide a map.

Charlie will also distribute the rough draft to the committee members.

As part of the discussion, the committee agreed that each of these plans will need to be reviewed every two to three years, as conditions change over time.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Oak Grove Task Force Update:

Brian Cowan provided an update on the Oak Grove Task Force. The members are speaking to various committees, including Open Space.

Brian reported that the task force's goal is ensure that the Oak Grove area – also known as the “bottle-cap lots” area – will inevitably get developed. Much of the land is already privately owned, and eventually most/all will be. The task force is working on a plan and proposed zoning to ensure that it ultimately looks attractive and minimizes impact upon abutters. For legal reasons, it is advantageous to implement the zoning prior to the start of development.

The task force is looking for what is missing in Medway – for example, more restaurants and housing stock for people who don't need large, stand-alone housing. Brian provided examples of young people starting out, and older people looking to downsize. It can be hard for people in these categories to stay in Medway if they want to – and many do.

The area will have three zones – commercial/industrial, retail, and residential. It also will have green areas and open space.

There will be a community forum on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

- Geocaching:

Charlie Ross asked what had happened with the geocaching request. The original request had come from a community member to Charlie through the Medway Open Space web page. Charlie never learned the results. Tina reported that Julie Harrington of the Parks & Recreation Department is now in charge of the policy. Charlie will contact her.

- Advance Agenda Coordination

Charlie Ross asked the Chairman why there had been no advance coordination of the agenda for the past two months. The committee's longstanding practice for many years was to send out an inquiry 1 – 2 weeks in advance, and committee members send their requests to the Chairman and the Recording Secretary. For example, committee members have noted that several planned topics have been omitted from the formal agendas,

resulting them falling under “other business,” rather than publicly announcing planned topics. The other committee members agreed that the committee should return to the prior practice. The Chairman will speak with the Recording Secretary.

- Village Street Access to Amphitheater:  
Mike Francis briefly showed a draft plan for the Village Street access to the Amphitheater. The current drawing isn’t formally one of the three options that the design firm is contractually required to produce. However, it does demonstrate the steep slope challenges to be overcome. Mike noted that we may be able to fit more parking spaces than expected. The committee discussed different options for dealing with the slope.

### **Future Meetings:**

- June 4, 2019
- No meeting in July
- August 6, 2019

### **Adjourn:**

**On a motion made by Charlie Ross and seconded Joanne Williams, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:46pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Ross

Clerk

\*\*Approved 6/419\*\*