

**The Town of Medway
Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes on June 4, 2019
Medway Senior Center
76 Oakland Circle
Medway, MA 02053**

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

Also Present: Wendy Harrington, Recording Secretary

Denise Legee opened the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Tick Prevention

There have been reports and personal experiences relating to a large number of ticks in the area of the trails. The trail to the Hoag boardwalk is particularly affected this year. The group talked about how to control the tick population and discussed ways to educate the residents of tick risk when using the trails. Placing stone dust is an option as well as keeping areas mowed. Hanging common preventative information in kiosks for public reading and posting on social media could be helpful.

Jim Wickis has attended day courses on meadows/meadow management and has done some tick research. His research has shown far less ticks in open meadows that are sunny as opposed to darker areas. He questions the validity of using stone dust and all agreed more research on that is necessary. Jim also reviewed the various kinds of ticks common to this region.

Mike Francis recommended tickencounter.org a website which is hosted through URI. There is a lot of research and resources for educators with different species and stages to help identify. He suggested posting a link to this site on social media. Mike feels that gravel paths and wider paths may reduce encounters.

Charlie would like poison ivy education posted on social media as well.

Bruce would like some education and temporary signs like *beware* hung on the trails. He feels that preventative steps posted on signs and social media may not be seen or acknowledged by the average resident.

Amphitheater Parking/access update

Mike explained that he looked at this briefly at the last meeting, but hasn't really worked with the surveyor since then.

Jim proposed a few parking spaces and asked for steps to be put in. Mike would like to follow the terrain because the grade is a bit too steep to follow straight down. Mike would like to avoid any steps at all and it's more amendable to do switch backs (per Michael Boynton). He would like to look at some more creative options. The next step is to call them and see what else they can come up with. Fill is certainly an option, but he wants them to lay it out and see what they have.

Mike noted if we could get an easement from the neighbor that could help with opening up more options.

Oak Grove Task Force Update

Brian explained that not much has happened since our last meeting. A few adjustments have been made and a Community Outreach evening is planned for June 10, 2019 7PM at Thayer. The latest iteration of the plan will be presented to those present with the consultant being available as well. Changes will then be prepared and the group will prepare for a Fall Town Meeting presentation. If not 100% ready however, they will postpone until Spring TM. Brian noted that if this doesn't go forward the Town would have little to no control over the development of the area in question.

Jim asked if there is any open space. Brian explained there are trails and connecting sections with open green space. The question remains who will maintain these areas, the town or give the developer control etc.

Review draft of Choate Management Plan

Charlie presented a slightly evolved plan with action items having been folded in.

Parcel boundaries were discussed, reviewed and compared to the map provided. Enough detail should be included for a future employee or committee member to reference without question.

Charlie will take a stab at adding additional trails that aren't listed and will look into land acquisitions through the assessor's page. Brian offered to help with that if needed. The updated draft should be ready for the August meeting.

Property description: Jim and Joanne assessed the areas and want to work on a narrative to describe the area. They will be describing the 10 different areas and the quality, as far as habitat, and hopefully complete this task by the end of June.

Denise suggested meeting the second week in July to take a stab at another property. Availability was discussed and Denise will work with Tina to schedule a meeting.

Charlie suggested individuals small groups of maybe two people take stabs at the other projects and then the group can review. This would be a time saving measure vs. trying to work them all together as a group.

Bruce suggested the length of each trail be posted in the trail description in the kiosks. This would be good information for residents to have when started out on a trail.

Jim noted:

- Open Space Recreation Plan (OSRP) and this document should overlap. The goal should be marketing, education and outreach.
- An OSRP goal is to monitor the properties.
- We should be working towards baseline document review. Baseline Documentation Report (BDR). CPC has to have these done for the properties that they purchased. Does this need to be put into this plan? There needs to be an understanding of the link between this report and the BDR.

The BDR (baseline of the properties) and maintaining the baseline should be done annually.

A conservation restriction should be put on the parcels that CPC purchased.

Maintaining regulatory requirements should be another major objective.

TBDs should be filled in on the final version. The version will be final after consulting with DPS and ConCom.

Next steps:

The committee will need to run the final draft by DPS, Susy, Bridget, Parks and Rec. A discussion/follow up on leaf blowing will be held for another meeting.

Mike asked about a title of the document. Charlie will use the amphitheater template to come up with a title and a cover page.

Incorporating an end date could be considered after presenting to all the stakeholders.

Reorganization of the Committee

Topic held until the next meeting when the Chairman is present.

Acceptance of Minutes 5/21/19

May 21, 2019:

One a motion made by Brian Cowan and seconded by Mike Francis, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the May 21, 2019 minutes as amended.

Other Business

- OSRP: Denise believes it's still in process. It's been submitted with comments but this group hasn't seen the comments yet. Changes should be combined and then made available. Denise will follow up with Susy Affleck-Childs for an update. The committee agreed they would like to see a rough copy if available.
- The Town Clerk has sworn in Mike for another term. The Town Clerk relayed a message of thanks to everyone who works on the trails.
- Mike gave an update on Medway Pride Day. People stopped by the booth and chatted. He met a Scout in search of an Eagle Scout project and was offered some suggestions by various people in attendance. Town Publishing had a booth and they now have a sign-making machine. Mike gave Denise some information for possible future sign projects.
- Charlie had asked recently about geocaching and has confirmed that Julie Harrington prepared guidelines and got them approved. He also followed up with Fred Hopke, the original requester, who confirmed that two geocaches are now on town property.
- Charlie attended Alex Green's Eagle Scout award ceremony.
- Jim removed some old yard sale signs off of some kiosks, he suggested being aware to remove them if they are not appropriate.

Future Meeting:

- No Meeting July 2, 2019
- Next meeting August 6, 2019
- A possible meeting in July was discussed but not determined

Adjourn:

On a motion made by Charlie Ross and seconded Mike Francis, the Committee voted to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Harrington
Recording Secretary