

**The Town of Medway
Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes on October 15, 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: Seth Molloy, Art Schnure, and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

Chairman Wright opened the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Sherborn Walks

Seth Molloy and Art Schnure were present for the meeting. Art stated that he and Seth are writers and that 27 years ago they put out the book Sherborn Walks. This is the second edition which has been updated. The reasons they created the book were to encourage people to get connected with the land and appreciate the trails available in the town. They believe that publicizing the outdoor recreation opportunities may help some people feel the trails can improve their property values. They are also trying to encourage people from out of town to come out and walk on their trails.

The book was published by Sherborn Forest and Trail Association and printed by DS Graphics in Lowell MA. They had help from the Trustees

of Reservations and the groups promoting the rail trails mentioned in the book. The book spotlights native animals, maps, and trails.

They are offering to create a similar book for Medway. There would be a fee. It's hard to say what the fee would be as they don't know how much would be involved at this point.

Charlie stated he likes the idea and likes the layout of the book and a regional book would be great. The only problem they will probably encounter is finding funding for it. Joanne stated maybe real estate people could fund it. Seth stated it's not that expensive, as they made 600 copies of the book for \$4,000. The books are sold at the town hall, a few bike shops, the library, and the local bookstore. It's also sells online. The book is \$20 in a store, \$30 on line. They have sold 400 books since it came out in February.

Joanne is all for the idea and thinks it would make an attractive welcome gift to newcomers from their real estate agents. Joanne stated it might be good to include local parks. Tina stated they probably are in there as the trailheads usually start there. Joanne stated the biggest problem with their trails is lack of awareness and the book would really help to promote them.

Seth stated they spoke to Holliston and Milford about doing a book and would like to eventually have several regional books. He would like to get several towns to work on it together and maybe apply for a grant to help with funding. Jim asked how long it would take to write the book as the second addition took 2 years. Seth thinks it would be a lot faster this time as there was a learning curve on the software used in the book. Charlie suggested they should consider the timing as they are now in the process of expanding some of their trails. Tina stated there are no

distances on the maps and thinks it would be helpful to have that on there. She would also like it to show if it's a loop trail or if the trails are easy or difficult.

Tina asked for an estimate of the total cost for all their work on the book including printing etc. Art estimated it took about 1,200 hours (some were learning hours), collecting data, compiling info and writing the book. Art stated he is not sure of the total cost and will get back to Tina.

Charlie stated we would want to own the intellectual property on the content, and have the digital originals on the maps so we could update them as we expand the network. Seth stated their real agenda is to get people out on the trails and he thinks they could work something out where they would get some of the book profits instead of having to give them all the money upfront. Tina asked him to send her a 2-3 page summary of the timeline and cost estimate. She would like to see a more structured plan with bullet points that explains what exactly they will do and what would be expected from them. This will be a rough working document. It was noted that if a portion of the book sales could go into maintaining the trails people would really like that. Also if a business funded part of the book, it would be great if they could put their name /logo on the back of the book. Tina stated she will invite them back to another meeting once they have a more structured plan. Tina thanked them for coming and presenting tonight.

Oak Grove (“bottle caps”) Update

Tina asked the committee if they want to vote to sign a letter in support of the proposed zoning that they are doing. Do they agree with the conceptual zoning changes for that area? Jim asked about the open space efforts and if Brian felt welcome. Brian stated he has felt really

welcomed and feels it's a better alternative to what the current zoning is. The proposed zoning would provide extra protection for the open areas. If the zoning change doesn't happen, industrial buildings can build right up to the neighborhoods and you could end up with three auto body shops in one area. Charlie asked about community reaction at public forums. Brian stated people are beginning to come around and he felt the people were more positive at the second forum about traffic flow.

Upon a motion made by Tina Wright and seconded by Jim Wickis, the committee voted to approve of writing a letter of support of the proposed zoning 5-0, with one abstention.

Interim Management Plans

Tina stated she was sad to see Jim's email about what happened to the Adams Meadow. The meadow was mowed prematurely. It was not supposed to be mowed until after the first hard frost. Joanne and Jim have been working with different people and they will be meeting with DPS and don't feel it's necessary for the whole committee to meet.

Tina stated as a result of the email, they will develop an interim management plan, based on a draft prepared by Joanne earlier this year. Who will maintain the trails? DPS and Open Space will try to work more closely on developing and implementing management plans. Tina thinks they should have a joint meeting with Open Space and the Conservation Commission to determine what needs to be done, what is allowed, timing for the maintenance activities.

Choate-to-Adams Management Plan

The document is almost done and ready to go to the other groups. It was noted that under the habitat health section it should state mowing will occur after the first hard frost (whenever that occurs).

Boardwalks

Tina expressed a concern about the amount of money that the new boardwalk cost. Tina asked why it can't be a volunteer-built bridge? Charlie stated they cannot build a structure that big to go across it. Charlie stated the largest bridge volunteers have built to date was a 16 foot bridge. Due to wetlands requirements, we can't support them in the middle – we're not allowed to use the kind of supports that volunteers can build. Joanne stated the bridges are going to need a lot of maintenance work which will be expensive. Some of the bridges are starting to show wear already.

Review of August 13, 2019 Public Session Minutes

Charlie stated he sent the minutes out in August and received some comments and incorporated them into the minutes.

Upon a motion made by Jim Wickis and seconded by Joanne Williams, the committee voted to unanimously approve the minutes as presented 6-0.

Warrant Articles

This was not discussed.

Amphitheater Parking

Mike showed paper copies of two concepts from the design firm. Mike stated he tried to reach the survey firm several times and met with them on site last week and they brought their landscape designer. Mike stated

he has not been pleased overall with them, as they have not responded to several requests (a design without stairs, and a design that uses the full property width once past the Village Street lot). . The committee discussed various details and options. Tina asked if the members would like to walk the area. They will email out some dates and pick the one that works for the majority of the members.

Other Business

Tina mentioned that the Mass Forest Association printed a brochure about protecting open space. Tina passed it around for the others to review. She thought it might be good to give it to Paul Atwood and other farmland owners just to make them aware of their options for protecting their land. If there is interest, she can set up a meeting to talk with them more.

Upon a motion by Brian Cowan and seconded by Joanne Williams, the committee voted to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 9:13 pm 6-0.

Next Meeting:

November 5, 2019

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy Rozak