

**The Town of Medway
Open Space Committee**

Meeting Minutes on February 5, 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		X

Also Present: Wendy Harrington, Recording Secretary

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Annual Report – Tina Wright

Tina received the notes that were submitted and sent in additions.

It was discussed whether or not the Trail Task Force and/or Trail Club should be mentioned under Open Space. If submitted the information should be very specific and be sure to mention all the work that has been done on the trails.

Amphitheater – Mike Francis Survey Update
Guerriere Halnon, Inc.

A topographical survey was performed on 193 Village Street. Mike explained the next step is to look at layout options to install a trail from the sidewalk to the existing trail, which will include accessibility guidelines. The estimate of \$1,500.00 will include 3 layout options and up to two site visits.

It was agreed Jim Wickis will work with Mike Francis as they proceed and include parking in the scope of work. The area should be cleaned up, fencing and a sign added to make the area more visible and user friendly. Talks of adding fill and plantings and working with town workers took place. Mike Francis suggested taking a look at the layouts presented and then ask DPS for assistance in completing the projects.

Tina Wright talked about the parking area on Village Street and talks that took place with Reardon.

Amphitheater – Jim Wickis Parking Lot Update

Jim Wickis has spoken to Steve Carew about the parking lot. He will call to ask about materials (railroad ties, fencing and plantings) to keep the conversation moving forward.

Joanne Williams asked about projects going on in town and why this parking project has seen delays. Tina Wright suggested Joanne give Dave D'Amico a call and inquire about job priorities

Open Space & Rec Plan Update

Jim Wickis explained the approved Plan has been returned from state offices, but lots of revisions and changes were included. Suzy Affleck-Childs will put the Task Force together to iron out /come to an agreement on the changes that need to be made. Denise Legee will inquire about the changes requested. Once the Plan is finalized, grants will need to be requested. Action items can be started once the plan is revised.

Tina Wright reported information from the Community Preservation Committee on baselines for each property. It was proposed by the Conservation Commission that an Independent 3rd party should do this for all properties.

Oakland/Rail Trail discussion

Mike Francis talked to next steps on the rail bed east of Oakland Street to the Millis Town line. He asked and if it make sense to clear blow downs and saplings and keep in an open space while we talk about next steps.

Clean sweep April 27th 8-11am

Joanne Williams volunteered her husband Stephen to be the Team Leader with Mike Francis, Jim Wickis and Denise Legee available to help out. The focus area will be the Oakland Rail Trail to raise awareness for residents that are in close proximity to that trail. Liz Langley in the Town Administrator's office will be made aware of this groups plan.

Warrant Articles

Tina Wright explained the warrant articles are due in March. Tina briefly spoke about the boardwalk and discussions that took place at Community Preservation on bog bridges, using cut down trees would save a lot of money vs. using pressure treated wood.

Joanne Williams will speak to Dave D'Amico about what pieces of equipment are available for use on projects that require heavy equipment. This would also be a good reference for future projects/discussions.

Growing Locally Program – 2/13/19 Acton Town Hall

Tina Wright relayed the information on this program, which is primarily about farming. No one is available to attend.

Mass Land Conservation Conference

Tina Wright sent out an email with the information on this conference to be held March 23rd. Mike Francis will attend this year. If anyone else is interested in attending they should let Suzy Affleck-Childs know.

Conflict of Interest

All members were reminded to take care of Conflict of Interest training by April 5th. Once completed submit the appropriate document to Allison Potter, Assistant Town Administrator or to Chairman Wright.

Oak Grove Update

Brian Cowan spoke to the Oak Grove Task Force and where the Committee is at in the process. Multiple meetings have been held and a public meeting will be scheduled to clarify the project with the residents. There is a Special Town Meeting scheduled for March 11th for Oak Grove. It was not entirely clear the reason for the Special Town Meeting.

Dog Policy – discuss process/timing

Denise Legee went before the Board of Selectmen to talk about a dog policy in Open Space areas as more and more people are using trails and parks. She explained she was looking for the guidance from the BOS on how to approach the topic, who is responsible and is it a good idea to pursue. The BOS suggested she work with Parks and asked to submit a draft plan by April in case they need a warrant article (for regulation changes) at the spring Town Meeting. She felt their opinion was they knew it would be a difficult process and all agreed enforcement might need to be addressed in the future.

Mike Francis spoke to the Trustee's of Medfield and their dog policy, which took two years to come to the implementation stage. There are a lot of options; the process can be complex or easy. His personal feeling was if you require a leash it will increase compliance and over time more and more people will act as others do.

Each member offered their personal opinions and experiences with their dogs and on the trails of Medway. It was agreed that dog etiquette is important.

Denise Legee will work with parks on their opinions and input. Setting basic parameters that are not offensive to any one group would be part of a first pass at a dog policy.

Suggested language that all agreed to: **“Dogs on leashes are allowed on trails and paved sidewalks on Town of Medway Property”**

This statement deals with trails and public areas but not fields/schools. Denise Legee will forward this statement to Parks for their input.

Tina Wright will ask Superintendent Pires to address school property and their rules. Tina also suggested it may be beneficial for a member to obtain information from a recent Friends of Medway dog post. This may be a good way to gather feedback and suggestions.

Tina Wright will also speak to Brenda Hamelin on the current leash law.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joanne Williams has been in touch with a Boy Scout Troop who would love to help with projects. Joanne will reach out and find some projects for them to help with.

Parks and Rec brochure- Ideas were discussed and scheduling concerns were hashed out. A winter fire and snow shoe/trail walk will be advertised and planned.

Other ideas presented: Jim Wickis is proposing to do a wild flower survey on the Adams Street area trails each month from May through September and would like to have this open to the public. A kite flying activity at Idlybrook and a Scavenger Hunt could also be planned.

Tina Wright suggested a “Here’s what we are doing” posting in the school newsletter and also advertise events on the Trails Facebook page. She suggested, “Would you like to volunteer but not be on a committee?” as sample language to use to attract volunteers.

Tina Wright reminded everyone that ideas need to come before the Committee before final plans are set.

Acceptance of Minutes:

December 4, 2018:

On a motion made by Brian Cowan and seconded by Denise Legee, the Committee voted unanimously the December 4, 2018 minutes as amended.

Future Meeting:

- March 5, 2019

Adjourn:

On a motion made by Joanne Williams and seconded Charlie Ross, the Committee voted to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Harrington
Recording Secretary

****Approved 4/2/19****