

**The Town of Medway
Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes on August 14, 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			

Chairman Wright opened the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Reorganization of the Committee

Joanne Williams moved, and Jim Wickis seconded, that the following positions be elected for the following year:

- Chairman: Tina Wright
- Vice Chairman: Denise Legee
- Clerk: Charlie Ross

With five votes in favor, none opposed, these members were elected unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes of June 4, 2019

Upon a motion by Denise Legee, seconded by Joanne Williams, the committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes of June 4, 2019, as amended.

Sherborn Walks

Guests Seth Molloy and Art Schnure had approached Susy Affleck-Childs and wished to discuss their book *Sherborn Walks*. They were unable to attend the August meeting. They will be invited back for the September meeting and put at the beginning of the agenda.

Draft Management Plan (Choate Park to High School)

As follow-up to the June meeting, members had prepared two sections of the Choate-to-High School management plan.

Charlie Ross had incorporated the comments from the June meeting into the portion of the plan that lists the parcels, shows the map, and lists the objectives. The committee reviewed this and suggested a few minor edits.

Joanne Williams and Jim Wickis had prepared an extensive property description write-up. The committee did not suggest any edits to this text.

Charlie accepted the action to merge the two documents.

The discussion then turned to next steps. In particular, the committee discussed maintenance issues both at the boardwalk trail and at Idylbrook.

The committee discussed how quickly they could complete the full set of detailed management plans. Several members expressed a concern that there could be another year's worth of effort in preparing them. These complete plans (such as the existing one for the Amphitheater and the new one for Choate-High School) have a lot of value, but they take time to prepare.

As an alternative, the committee discussed preparing an interim action list based on a draft prepared by Joanne Williams after a DPS meeting in March. The committee will recirculate this list in advance of the September meeting and add it to the agenda. Members are asked to come prepared to discuss it.

Based on a discussion of current maintenance needs, the committee will also move forward with preparing the Boardwalk Trail and Idylbrook full plans. Scheduling options for the discussion were reviewed (including a second September meeting or at the October regular meeting). The decision will depend upon member availability.

Trails Survey

The committee briefly discussed the student survey conducted by Jackson Lower, a recent graduate of Medway High School. He had conducted a survey as part of a school project. The results can be found online at <https://sites.google.com/view/jackson-lower-cap/home>.

He did not respond to an invitation to meet with the committee. The members agreed his effort was worthwhile and very well put together. Some of the ideas represent efforts that are already in progress. There are also new ideas that will be considered as the committee moves forward.

Other Business

- The trails at Idylbrook have not been maintained well this year.
 - The main trail, parallel to the water behind the park, was recently observed to be badly overgrown.
 - The side trails to the water have become impassible.

Jim Wickis will ask DPS about the main trail mowing.

- Tina reported a discussion she had with Selectman Glenn Trindade regarding potential Scouts projects. Two suggestions were to organize an orienteering event or to help conduct the land surveys needed on our open parcels, feeding into the Baseline Documentation Reports that that the town needs. The Conservation Agent, as well as the committee, are interested in this moving forward. The committee agreed that help with the surveys would be useful. Discussion of details would happen after there's specific expression of interest.
- In a prior meeting, the committee had discussed the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan and that members weren't aware of its status. Denise subsequently investigated and found that the Commonwealth had sent a formal reply to the town on October 15, 2018, listing a series of required changes. The committee is unclear whether there was follow up. It appears that the town is still not authorized to receive grant payments. Tina will investigate further.
- The Betania II community, owner of the private open-space parcel between Idylbrook and Wenakeening Woods, has posted signs with stricter restrictions, including no dogs allowed on the property.
- There were several mentions of how much poison ivy is growing into the trails. Joanne Williams mentioned an opportunity to borrow, at no cost, some leashed goats to eat it. She will investigate further.

Future Meeting:

- Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Possible agenda items:
 - Sherborn Walks
 - Oak Grove ("bottle caps") Update
 - Interim management plans
 - Management plan for boardwalk trail

Adjourn to Executive Session:

On a motion made by Joanne Williams and seconded by Charlie Ross, the Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session, not to return to public session, at 8:18 PM. The votes were as follows:

In favor: Tina Wright, Charlie Ross, Jim Wickis, Joanne Williams, Denise Legee.
Opposed: None.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie Ross
Clerk