

**The Town of Medway
Open Space Committee**

Meeting Minutes of March 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	X

Also Present: Peg and Thomas Davin

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Annual Report

The report is due Friday, 3/8. The Chairman did not had time to type up the comments prior to the meeting.

Amphitheater

Mike Francis and Jim Wickis are meeting with the survey firm Wednesday, 3/13, weather permitting. The scope for the firm's efforts include up to three layout options, as well as the cut/fill requirements to implement them.

A planned visit to the Amphitheater parking lot did not happen, due to snow.

Open Space & Rec Plan Update

No update. We had expected to hear from Susie Affleck-Childs about scheduling a time to review the Commonwealth's comments. Denise Legee will contact her to follow up.

Dog Policy – Next Steps

The chairman met with Julie Harrington (Recreation Director), Brenda Hamelin (Animal Control Officer) and the Conservation Commission.

- Tina had contacted Armand Pires (School Superintendent). There is reportedly a state law prohibiting dogs on school grounds. However, the superintendent said we should be able to allow dogs on the trails from the North Field Parking Lot to Choate Park, Adams Street, and Summer Street. The committee discussed whether other trails on the high

school grounds are included; Tina said she thinks the schools have limited flexibility to officially open those to dogs.

- At Choate, the desire is to allow leashed dogs on trails (not fields or the playground) and to replace the existing signs with ones that have positive wording.
- The committee discussed the “Green Dog” program in Brookline, brought up by Bruce Hamblin.
- There is discussion of off-leash-but-under-control access in a limited number of (TBD) areas. This is more controversial and might require changes to bylaws, but many dog owners would appreciate this. Playing fields will not be one of those areas.
- The whole exercise is one of balancing competing interests.

Oak Grove Update

There are four articles on the warrant for the 3/18 Special Town Meeting. Brian Cowen discussed how one relates to eminent domain. He also explained the approach to zoning that is being discussed.

Baseline Plan Review/Comments

Discussed the lengthy document, *Charles River Amphitheatre Baseline Documentation Report*, that had been prepared as part of the work on the OSRP. Not all committee members had a chance to review it.

The Committee members believe that a simpler document would be useful, having sections like boundaries, flora/fauna, needs of the property, and 3-10 year vision.

Jim Wickis asked Mike Francis if the Trustees of Reservations still use this kind of documentation – they do not.

Jim had done a simple document in 2012. The Committee would like to proceed by updating the existing document, then using the same outline for other properties. Jim will distribute the older document in soft copy.

The current priorities would be removing construction debris, cleaning up the western boundary wall, and doing something to preserve the cording machine. Committee members can send ideas to Jim and he can bring them to the next meeting for discussion. It would also be good to annually attach an appendix document progress made in the year.

Part of the goal of these plans is to help DPS to plan budgets, equipment needs, etc. Joanne Williams met with Steve Carew to better understand the existing equipment and its capabilities. A number of places on the trails today aren’t accessible by the DPS equipment. A lot of the maintenance continues to be done by volunteers, and this isn’t sustainable in the long run. Other towns with trail networks have probably addressed this, and we should ask the DPS Director to reach out to some towns to find out how they accomplish such maintenance. The goal would be to have inputs in time for incorporation for the fiscal 2021 budget.

The specific properties that need such plans would include the Adams Street meadow; the trails to Summer and Adams Streets, the Boardwalk trails, the Amphitheater, Idylbrook, and Bresnahan's Landing.

Other Business

- Bridget Graziano, the town's Conservation Agent, is requesting CPA funding for another Conway School study. Chairman Wright read a letter from Bridget. The committee discussed three options for where such a study might be useful, and settled upon Idlebrook as the preference. There are three areas at Idlebrook where a study could be useful: the chestnut grove, the eastern side of the beaver pond (accessible from existing trails) and the western, "far" side that is currently inaccessible from the athletic field area. Tina expects the cost to be about \$5500.
- Joanne's husband, Stephen Williams, is organizing the OSC-sponsored "Medway Clean Sweep" cleanup at the railroad bed east of Oakland Street.

Acceptance of Minutes – February 5th:

After discussion, the committee decided to postpone review until the April meeting. The recording secretary, who has the master files, was not present for the March 5th meeting, and a number of markups are likely to be required.

Future Meeting:

- April 2, 2019

Adjourn:

On a motion made by Mike Francis and seconded by Jim Wickis, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session, not to return to public session, at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Ross
Clerk

***Approved 4-2-19