

Committee Members

Tina Wright, Chair
Denise Legee, Vice Chair
Charlie Ross, Clerk
Mike Francis, Member
Bruce Hamblin, Member
Jim Wickis, Member
Joanne Williams, Member



TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, no in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted at this meeting.

**Joint Meeting with the Medway Open Space
Committee & the Task Force
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 7:00 pm
Medway Senior Center
76 Oakland Street
Medway, MA 02053**

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

Also present: Susy Affleck Childs, Julie Harrington, Matt Hayes, David Blackwell, Glen Trindade, Debi Rossi, Dave D'Amico, and Tim Fageron

Matt Hayes called the OSRP meeting to order at 7:11 pm. Tina Wright called the Open Space meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

Matt Hayes asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 2, 2020 Open Space/ OSRP task force meeting. Glenn Trindade seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Matt stated the OSRP plan was approved in June by the state and it goes through 2025. This will allow the town to apply for grants and serve as a roadmap for the town to move forward. The committee reviewed the action items from the June meeting.

Action Items (Pgs. 72 & 73 of the Medway OSRP Action Plan)

#1 through #5. Tina Wright stated they have been working on the Management plans. Tina has met with the DPW and the Conservation Commission and just needs to summarize those discussions. The plans are very in depth and show boundaries, flora, fauna and the general topography. This type of plan should be done on all the town properties and should be updated every few years. The corridor from Adams to Lovering Street includes streams, wetlands, forests, fields etc. Susy stated they are hoping to get funding from Capital Improvements to hire someone to do these types of baseline documentation plans. Susy stated that Anne Capra, the consultant on the OSRP gave her a price quote of roughly \$2,500 for each additional survey.

Moving forward, we can try to get developers to do this with all donated land. Salmon did this for their Senior Living Community. Timber Crest did it as well. Tina stated they are supposed to do the same thing for CPC properties and maybe they could use Anne for that as well. Jim Wickis stated a great benefit of a baseline plan is if there are conservation restrictions placed on the land later another entity takes it over, they can see what is there and if and when things changed. Susy would like this to be standard operating procedure.

#3. Additional DPW personnel needed. Jim is going to work with Steve on that.

6. Tina asked Glenn about budget discussions for 2022. Glenn stated he knows we need more people and equipment but it is unlikely to happen due to COVID. The reality is we may have to continue with what we have for another year. Joanne stated a lot of work has been done by volunteers and we should track this so the town can see how much is needed to maintain what we have.

7. Tina stated we are working on this and will continue to provide the information and make progress.

8. Joanne stated they have about 25 people now in the Voluntary Stewardship Program and hopefully it will continue to grow. She has been asking people she sees on the trails if they would like to volunteer their time to maintain the trails. She thinks a personal invitation works well.

9 & 10. Dave D'Amico stated they are hoping to attack the bitter sweet and they found a product that works well but it is not recognized on the label for bittersweet. They hired a consultant to help with this. Once they have a draft plan they will send it out to the committee for review. Denise stated the plan is to just keep mowing the Adams Street Meadow.

11. Tina stated the problem with a town wide plan is that they haven't identified all the problems with each property on a baseline document. She thinks the longer we wait, the worse the invasives get. Joanne stated the more we can educate the volunteers, the more they can do independently.

12. The town charter says no dogs allowed on any of the town properties. Glenn stated this is actually a bylaw and there is an effort underway to revise all of our bylaws because some are really outdated. He thinks they should put out waste bags/disposable stations around the areas. Joanne asked about getting private funding. Dave Blackwell suggested they could approach vendors that sell dog bags or landscaping companies that might sponsor a dog station for advertising. Matt suggested dog grooming and/or pet companies. Glenn stated we cannot do any of this until the bylaw is changed.

Susy suggested this group meet more than once per year to work on these things. Bi- annually seems most beneficial to meet our timelines.

13. Tina asked Dave D’Amico if there is a water management plan for this. Dave D’Amico stated they did a stormwater study and they have a plan but it changes each year. Dave Blackwell stated the state of Massachusetts mandates how much water we can pump out of the ground.

14. Susy stated they are establishing relationships with the Millstone and Williamsburg properties. They have had a few phone calls and zoom meetings and are laying the groundwork.

Joanne asked about the Nelon Lane property. There was some dumping in back. Conservation owns that open space parcel. Tina stated this is why it is so important that we have baseline documentation. We can’t maintain something if we don’t know what we have.

#15. Klein Conservation Area –Bridget Graziano is planning to work on this and looking into funding.

#16. Joanne stated they have added several trail benches using materials we already had and converted them into benches. Tina stated we should not ask people to donate until we have specific parameters on the benches.

Lovering Street Parking -Public Accessibility. Joanne stated the parking lot sketched on the plan was very minimal with only 3 spots. It was supposed to be bigger with at least room for 6 cars to park diagonally. We would need another opening in the stone wall for an exit. They would need to move about 4 stones. They are hoping to get that approved before Steve puts in the parking lot. Glenn stated that is a scenic road so it will have to be run by the Planning Board. They would need to submit an application with a drawing describing the work. Joanne volunteered to work on this but it is unlikely to have it before the next meeting.

Parking for 5 cars before the power lines. There is room for parking between the stone wall and the fence. It is 24 feet wide, just enough for two cars to park parallel. Tina stated they would like to clean up the parking area, add two handicap spaces and get an easement. Tina will send an email to Dave D’Amico about this. Glenn stated the only reason we can park there now is because the power company is not really aware.

Denise Legee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm. Glenn Trindade seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Open Space meeting continued at 8:21pm.

Boardwalk Management Plan

Will review this again when Charlie is present. Committee members should send their comments to Charlie if they have not done so already.

Open Space Fire/Rescue Plan update

Joanne met with Chief Fasolino and walked the new trail from Lovering. They are not worried about the width of the bridges. They researched how far they can get with vehicles and know where they would need to go with stretchers. The DPW needs the bridges to be 5 feet wide if possible to fit their equipment.

Boardwalk to Lovering Trail update

Tina stated she recently walked over it and it is lovely. The last bridge they built is behind Iarussi which covers loose rocks in a drainage channel. Medway lumber will be sending in the bill. Jim stated he did some mowing around it to clear the walking area. Volunteers worked on the first section, the middle section is still narrow. She has people coming tomorrow to work on that area. There are a lot of stumps and roots to trip over right now. One of the abutters would like to put up a fence and have the town pay for it. Another abutter mowed a large area that he was not supposed to but he is willing to purchase and put in some replacement plantings. Joanne stated she spoke to Bridget about this and it's ok for him to put plantings on town property. Tina stated Bridget should work with the abutter on this. We need to consider what happens if the plantings die or grow too large. Who would be responsible for maintenance? After a brief discussion, it was decided the abutter should put any plantings on his property and see how it grows in to see if we need to add anything. We can wait to see how much use the trail gets before we consider putting in any plantings on the town side.

Amphitheater Fence

Jim stated it looks ok. It is a fancier fence than the other one but it now extends into the driveway. Jim asked the other committee members to go look at it.

Invasives at the Meadow

Joanne stated things are dying back now so we should just keep mowing it. Jim stated Triclopyr is the top choice for bittersweet so he is not sure why the state is against it. They can use an aerosol spray treatment or a stump treatment. Jim will send Tina an email about his concerns about this and she will follow up with Peter Pelletier at the DPW.

Land Management Plan Update –will be discussed at the next meeting.

2021 Priorities – Will discuss at next meeting. Denise would like to add the Lee property to the priority list - need something official that says we have an easement so we can go through there to get out to the boardwalk. Susy stated Tina should send a note to Barbara St. Andre asking for an easement document. Denise will draft the letter and send it to Susy.

Approval of the September 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Joanne had some comments but will send them to Charlie for next month. Denise mentioned a typo and a font issue.

Other Items that may come before the committee

Mike asked about the 7 acres on the draft warrant that is being given to the town on 76 Summer Street located at 60 Summer Street. Tina thought these are wetlands and the town chose not to purchase it. Parcel #37-071 is in front of the high school

Jim mentioned the Williamsburg open space and is not sure our committee will have much to do with it anymore as it will be under conservation. There are 3 parking spaces for open space there now and a path through the property that he mows. Bridget will have it surveyed to clearly

see the boundaries. Maybe they could put in a small loop trail there. Jim and Tina will schedule a site visit. Susy suggested putting an Open Space sign in this area.

Jim wants to develop an invasive management plan for the town. Establish sound practices for managing invasive species. Joanne suggested making a list of priority places- some are just starting to get invasives and they would have a better chance of controlling these areas. Jim will develop a plan and present it next month. Susy suggested having a cheat sheet with pictures of the invasives and how to treat them. Tina stated maybe they could get Medway Millis news to put something in the paper.

Adjourn

Denise Legee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 pm. Mike Francis seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rozak