

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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89011037644?pwd=eE9lLzRFQUlQU1PNUNCRkQ1aitMQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 1103 7644

Passcode: 431454

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Medway Open Space Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 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 arrived 7:25pm	X	

Tina Wright called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

Tina stated she spoke with Bruce and he does not have access to the zoom meetings.

- Reorganization**

Chairman- Tina Wright volunteered for another year

Vice Chair- Denise Legee volunteered for another year

Clerk- Charlie Ross volunteered for another year

Mike Francis made a motion to approve the slate of offices as presented. Joanne Williams seconded the motion and all were in favor.

- **Boardwalk Management Plan**

Tina stated they should summarize the meeting notes and get DPS to put it into their plans and see if they have additional staff available. She could put in for a capital improvement purchase. She is not sure the big mower they have is good for the trails. Mike stated they might want to use a DR mower which is a walk behind brush mower, self-propelled, heavy duty and costs around \$2500-3000 dollars. Tina thinks this would be good mower for the Meadow Trail. Tina stated they could also put in a request for capital improvement for a baseline plan.

Tina stated she thought the Management Plans went well. Charlie stated he has most of the GPS stuff done already for the recently-built new bridge. Tina stated they should use the master excel spreadsheet and Steve can work with Jim on that. Then they can present a summary to Michael Boynton and Glenn Trindade to educate them and get recognition that this is the towns plan.

Open Space Fire/Rescue Plan update

Joanne met with the Fire Chief and stated they split the town into 4 quadrants and their personnel have walked the trails and the access points along the trail. They tried bringing a big rescue vehicle in but had some trouble. They need a map that includes easements, map kiosks, and bridges etc. Joanne spoke to Fran Hutton and she would like a map showing all the different surfaces- one color for grass, one color for woodlands, etc. Charlie stated he has the mapping for the whole Choate Corridor and has already sent the trails to Fran. Joanne stated that the Fire Department is going to start doing drills and they are interested in giving the bridges more unique names rather than numbers. Joanne also spoke with the Cultural Council and they discussed naming the bridges with some history, poetry or art. The cart path could be a good place to discuss the Native American history of Medway. Other ideas were to include the industry in town or a volunteer bridge with the names of people that have helped over the years. The Cultural Council is planning an event in the spring to raise funds for a sculpture or plaque for each bridge which would help identify them. Jim asked if they could name a bridge after Jim Wheeler. Joanne stated some people can get left out this way and it might be better to add him to the Volunteer Bridge as a long time contributor.

There was a brief discussion about possible names for the bridges and it was agreed the names need to be short and simple. Tina suggested a sign with the name on it and a plaque with a little bit of history behind it. Joanne stated the Cultural Council also asked about sensory trails and indicated they could fundraise for this. Maybe they could have brail signs made with explanations on them. Tina stated she would like to plan a few accessibility projects in the future.

- **Boardwalk to Lovering Trail update**

Tina stated this area looks great. Joanne stated Steve and Paul got all the fittings put in for the cart path bridge. The lumber is being delivered tomorrow. Along Iarussi Way, Ms. Graziano is

sending encroachment letters out to all the abutters. Joanne stated there will be a lot of clearing to do and Steve is ready to start on the parking lot. It has been cleared, a weed trap installed and he will be putting in gravel. Tina would like some of the stones in the stone wall put back into position so the stone wall is more defined. The owner of one of the houses mowed way behind their property line and took out all the vegetation. Some trees have fallen in that area as well. In the end, it will be beautiful and there will be many options for trails.

- **Invasives at the Meadow**

Tina stated she and Jim met with Ms. Graziano and she was going to give the ok to spray but Peter Pelletier pushed back and said they need a spraying plan. Denise stated that Steve is talking to TruGreen about this and it has something to do with the timing. Jim stated the State of Massachusetts considers this roadside treatment and a higher level pesticide license is needed. The State has approved the spraying and Steve has mowed the area and when it starts to grow back they can do spot spraying. They will employ Garret from TruGreen to do the spraying.

- **Amphitheater Fence**

Nothing has been done yet.

- **Land Management Plan Update**

- **Open Space in back of VFW**

Tina stated she, Denise, Jim, and Joanne walked the area and there is a bit of a trail started that would be great to continue with. However, Tina feels there are more pressing priorities for this year and next year.

- **Placement of explanatory sign from Choate to High School**

People really liked the sign at the meadow and found it educational. Joanne stated the Cultural Council suggested we apply for a grant to purchase signs to explain about the beavers. Jim will give it some thought. Joanne would like to decide tonight if they would like to write the grant. Tina stated they need more information about the structure and how much money etc. Joanne will ask them what we need to do and how to quantify it. Joanne suggested asking for enough money for a few signs and a beaver talk.

2021 Priorities

Tina stated we can make a long list for the years ahead and prioritize them. She mentioned the trail club is doing great work and she wants to look at the Open Space Charter that was brought up 12 years ago. Does this need to be tweaked and do we have all the right pieces in place? We will talk more about priorities at the next meeting. Charlie won't be at the meeting but will send his thoughts to Tina.

Approval of the July 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Minor edits were discussed.

Charlie Ross made a motion to approve the July 7th meeting minutes as amended and Denise Legee seconded the motion and all were in favor.

- **Other Items that may come before the committee**
- **Eagle Scout Project**

Jim stated Ryan looked at the bridge just south of Adams Street. It needs ramps on both sides and rocks and brush need to be cleared. Jim explained the procedure to him and he was going to talk with the Scout Leader to see if they want to move forward with that. He is waiting to hear back from Ryan.

- **Potential Parking Lot at Adams Street Boardwalk Trailhead**

There were some questions about parking under the power lines for trail walking. Jim spoke with Susy and she thinks the town has the right to talk to the power company about this. This was delayed due to COVID and then it was decided that Barbara St. Andre should be the one to talk to the power company and then it should be presented at a Selectmen's meeting. Tina stated she will have a conversation with Barbara St. Andre to better understand the easements and their options before they go to a Selectmen's meeting.

There were discussions of the spacing between the road, the stone wall, and the fence. The stone wall is very close to the road and can't be moved. Also, the town needs to consider plowing in the winter. Tina stated ideally the safest place for parking would be inside of the fence. There was discussion of moving the fence, if needed. If that is not possible, maybe DPS could do a study to see if it's possible to safely put a few spaces in there behind the stone wall.

- **Oakland Street Wellfield Expansion**

Mike mentioned the postcard he received from DPW stating the Oakland Street well needs to add more wells. We just need to think about how this would affect future trail access and development.

- **Adjourn**

Denise Legee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Charlie Ross seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rozak