

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.

Topic: Open Space Committee

Time: May 5, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88199833321?pwd=QUVVeENQamFoNlFpSDFnSjdVbXN1dz09>

Meeting ID: 881 9983 3321

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Medway Open Space Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 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	Brian Cowan
Present	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Committee Business:

- Public Comments**

No members from the public were present for this meeting.

Tina Wright called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

- **Control of Invasive Species**

Jim stated all the virus restrictions have brought everything to a halt in controlling the invasive weeds. Tina suggested the possibility of the committee members working on a property together if they all stayed 6 feet apart or they could pick a spot and work independently. Jim could show people at the beginning what needs to be done. Jim suggested they focus on the following areas. The area between Adams Street and the boardwalks has multiflora roses that need to be removed. The meadow area on Adams Street on the south end near the tall pines, there is a bad clump of glossy buckthorn getting very thick. The third spot is the Adams Street parking lot near the zig zag trail to the north field there is a lot of honeysuckle and glossy buckthorn.

Joanne thinks the garlic mustard is more urgent right now, millions of seedlings everywhere, blowing into people's yards. She met several people who are willing to help. Joanne stated Adams, Lovering, and Partridge Streets are the worse ones. Jim stated the problem with garlic mustard is that it gets thicker and puts a chemical in the ground that hinders the growth of other trees and takes over the area. Tina thinks it may be too much to pull out this year. Jim stated it can be sprayed but you would have to get permission from the Conservation Commission. Jim would like to get rid of some of the garlic mustard in the peace garden. Tina would like to spray this year and pull out next year. Joanne asked about pulling this year and spraying next year. Tina doesn't think she can get enough people to pull it out. Charlie suggested a public awareness campaign as many people don't know what it looks like. Jim and Joanne will draft a simple notice with pictures and Charlie will put it on the Friends of Medway Face book page and the Medway Open Space page.

Jim stated he will take care of the parsnips as he would rather not have the public working on it as it can cause skin burns. Denise stated Bridget was okay with them using a herbicide to kill Bittersweet in the back of the meadow. Jim will confirm this with Bridget. It was decided that all available committee members will meet on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 9:00 am at the Adams meadow parking lot to get a start on this. They will also meet again on Saturday May 16th at 1pm at Adams Street to work on the buckthorn and the multiflora near the parking lot and meadow.

The committee discussed the multiflora along the boardwalk trail. Charlie mentioned that he took out a bunch last year with a battery-operated hedge trimmer and plans to do that again this year. Tina wondered if there was a grant available that could help with invasives along that trail. It would have to be at least a 3 year project. Tina will talk to Bridget about this.

- **Amphitheater Trail and Goals**

Tina stated she has left Dennis Crowley several messages. She would like him and Glen to walk the area. Mike stated we just need to get a commitment to do this. Jim stated the front part towards the river looks good, the grass is low as they started mowing this week. Joanne stated she was there recently and is concerned because there were so many trees there that you almost couldn't see the trail. Jim stated the slope is pretty clear and open, just getting down to the slope might be a challenge. Mike suggested talking to the neighbor on the other side as he might give them an easement to get to that area.

- **Boardwalk/Millstone Trail Signage**

Denise walked the trail with Bridget and Brian (Millstone Caretaker) recently to figure out where to put the signs. They talked about putting an Open Space sign up where the trail crosses onto town property and a private property sign where it goes into Millstone property. Brian was not

happy about spending \$450 for the open space signs. He is going to check with a different vendor which is fine as long as they are approved by this committee. All the small signs will be tan with brown lettering like the other trails.

Joanne asked about working on the bridges. She has two sons at home that are willing to work on it. Charlie stated Paul Atwood coordinated that so she should check with him. Charlie stated they received an urgent request from the boy scouts who needed a short term Eagle Scout project. Jim and Paul suggested they could raise the bridge and add ramps to the bridge south of Adams Street.

The committee also discussed the footbridge to be built north of the new boardwalk. They need volunteers and materials. Joanne stated she has the wood and Jim has some patio pavers they can use. Joanne will contact Paul about this.

- **Other Items that may come before the committee**

Charlie stated there were some open items from the January meeting he wanted to discuss. He was going to set up a time for him and Jim to go out and review the bridges and culverts. He has some time to do that now. He hasn't walked the Millstone trail in a long time and would like to walk it with one of the committee members to see where the new bridge is. Charlie will coordinate with Jim to find a time to do this. Tina stated she would like to have a trail east of the second boardwalk bridge that goes south to the wetlands, similar to the red trail on the west side. It would only involve moving some dead wood and raking the area. Jim stated this should be approved by Bridget first.

Charlie mentioned that a trail club member recently found a wasp nest near the entrance to the trail and posted this on Face book. Glen saw it and stated he would tell Dave D'Amico. They discovered there were about a dozen nests under the boardwalk and they were going to put signs up until they can remove the nests.

Joanne mentioned there were a lot of complaints on the Friends of Medway Face book page about aggressive dogs off leash and dog poop on the trails. Joanne put up some temporary signs at Choate Park and Adams Meadow. The signs stated dogs on leashes only, please clean up after your pet and maintain a safe difference. Tina stated this is not our purview to be saying this. We can notify Glen but we should not be owning this project.

Jim spoke to Susy about the easement area on Adams Street and a possible parking area near the kiosk. Susy will talk to Barbara St. Andre about this.

- **March Meeting Minutes**

Denise made a motion to approve the March 3, 2020 meeting minutes as amended (trial corrected to trail, Suzy corrected to Susy). Joanne seconded the motion and they were approved. Charlie abstained from the vote as he was not at the March meeting.

The next meeting is planned for June but not sure if it will be in person or virtually. Charlie will check with Allison on this.

- **Adjourn**

Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm. Joanne seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rozak