

## Committee Members

Tina Wright, Co-Chair  
Denise Legee, Co-Chair  
Charlie Ross, Clerk  
Mike Francis, Member  
Jim Wickis, Member  
Joanne Williams, Member  
Andrea Burke, Member  
Laura Connolly, Member



# TOWN OF MEDWAY

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

### OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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**December 7, 2021- 7:00 PM**  
**Medway Senior Center**

Attendance	Tina Wright	Jim Wickis	Denise Legee	Charlie Ross	Joanne Williams	Mike Francis	Andrea Burke	Laura Connolly
Present	x	x	x	x	x		x	x

*Denise called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.*

#### **Medway Master Plan Task Force update (Denise)**

Denise stated the Task Force reviewed all the public comments from the forum and online. They discussed changes to the report. The consultants will put in all the edits and the committee will review it and then meet again.

#### **Water Trail (Tina)**

Tina stated both Bridget Graziano (Conservation Agent) and Susy Affleck Childs (Planning & Economic Development Coordinator) were in favor of it. Tina stated so much work has to go into the grant that it might be better to apply in February of 2023. They are looking at where they can get access to and from the water. They are considering adding information about Franklin, Bellingham, and/or Millis. They also discussed hydro raking in the river which can remove 6 inches of sludge. So they need to do more research as this may become more than one project. They will look at the different landing spots to see if a picnic area or trail should be at each spot. Denise stated that between Neelon Lane and the river there is a nice flat spot for a picnic area. Tina stated they will set a date to walk through the areas. Denise stated Bridget should come on the walk through. Tina is waiting for Bridget to get back to her. **Action Item: Tina will schedule to walk the area with Bridget and let other members know so they can join if they wish.**

#### **Open Space Signs for Bresnahan and Ohnemus (Mike)**

Denise stated we will have to order more Open Space signs. She does have one sign available that they could put it in now before the ground freezes. It was decided the sign should be put in at Ohnemus (next to the police station) because there is already a kiosk at Bresnahan's Landing.

#### **Mountain Bike Trails**

Denise stated that Ben Goodale and his mother sent a letter to Susy asking about mountain bike trails. Denise stated that bikers tend to tear up the trails a bit and are sometimes not too careful

around people. These trails would incorporate lifts and jumps. Joanne thought that the area under the power lines might be a good area for mountain biking. These areas are already largely cleared and they could adjust the slopes. They would have to ride through some of the walking trails to get to the mountain bike trail area, so that would be a concern.

Jim stated in the letter, the boy referred to the land as unused but there are lots of plants and animals that are using it now. Jim stated Diamond Hill State Park has an undeveloped area and that is used a lot by mountain bikers. There are some rocks and scrubby brush there and the bikers come around corners very fast and can startle walkers. They might need to have some signage there. Jim stated in Holliston/Milford there is a big chunk of conservation land that goes all the way up to College Rock. A lot of mountain bikers go there which can make it difficult for the walkers. Joanne stated maybe we could designate just a few trails to be used for bikers. Jim stated that this is the first time we've seen a request to build dedicated bike trails so he is not sure how much interest there would be.

Tina stated she runs into mountain bikers on the trails in Wenakeening Woods. She thinks most riders are respectful. She thinks there should be designated areas like the power lines and the Briggs property from the high school. She wants to make sure they can maintain the walking trails. Charlie is against cutting any more trails in the wooded parts of the Chicken Brook area, so as to preserve habitat. Where trails are shared between bikes and walkers, he is concerned about safety, especially for dog walkers. He likes the idea of the power line area. There are three areas along the Chicken Brook easement that might qualify: south of Iarussi Way (there are already a number of old dirt bike trails there), as well as north and south of Adams Street. Denise mentioned the other power easement (along Hopping Brook), but Charlie stated this is mostly owned by Eversource. Joanne thinks further away by the highway towards Route 109 there is a large area that could be a good trail. Charlie stated someone would have to research who owns that land.

Andrea inquired about possible legal repercussions. She suggested consulting with the town attorney. Denise stated she will report back to Susy that the committee is not averse to the idea of bike trails but we have concerns about safety and it will take a lot of time and effort to look into everything involved to establish the trails. Tina stated we can offer guidance, but we are not going to own the project. **Action Item: Denise to report back to Susy.**

## **Brochure Update**

Charlie reached out to Fran Hutton Lee, GIS Coordinator. He will meet with her in the next month to discuss the map. Denise reviewed the old brochure and stated a lot of the verbiage is old and she flagged some things that are no longer active like the beaver dam. Tina thinks the brochure should be bigger. Charlie doesn't think the map needs to be any bigger, but we can change how we use the space. Denise stated we should add info about the trail mileage of each area, parking info, water access etc. Joanne mentioned using QR codes that can just be scanned.

**Action Item: Laura volunteered to work on the verbiage of the brochure.**

## **The Willows Trails (Tina)**

Tina stated she and Denise were going to walk it with Bridget, but they did not get a chance to do that yet. Tina stated it sounds like it will get done but she is not sure when. Denise is concerned about the western side; she is not sure where it connects with the canoe launch. There seem to be a lot of dead ends. **Action Item: Tina and Denise will walk the area with Bridget.**

### **Trail from Senior Center to Rail Bed**

Tina left two messages for the each of the owners and will keep trying.

### **History of trolley crossing bridge at the Willows (Joanne, Andrea)**

Joanne didn't have a chance to look for the book at the library. Andrea stated she found a lot of history about the trolley at the Milford Library. She distributed copies of a map of the Trolley route that ran from Milford to Medway by way of Caryville. There were two different trolley lines; one came in from Boston. Andrea spoke to Bill Reardon who told her there was a stop where the current police station is and the trolley went to Village Street and forked off where Larry Liquors is in Bellingham and then went into Woonsocket. Bill also told her that they melted down all the tracks as the metal was needed for WWII. **Action Item: Andrea will research it a little more and contact the Franklin Library and create a short story about the trolley.**

### **Amphitheater Village Street Access - Alternate Approach (Mike)**

Mike sent an email stating he does not have an update on this.

### **Town-wide treatment of invasives (Jim)**

Jim stated he spoke to DPW and urged them to put in a few statements about what the DPW efforts include. Susy will review it and see if any changes need to be made. **Action Item: Jim will update the committee after Susy reviews it and then they can discuss implementation.**

### **Form for coordination of scout and volunteer projects (Joanne)**

Joanne passed around the draft form that she created. This is the first form that a person proposing a project will have to fill out and get it approved by various boards and signed off by the Town Manager. Joanne stated she can list all the different committees on the back of the form. Joanne asked about putting in yes/no checkboxes asking if the applicants is 18 and above and if they live in Medway. Joanne suggested putting this form on line rather than saving paper copies. **Action Item: Joanne will have the Town Manager review the draft form.**

### **Mowing of meadow south of Iarussi Way (Joanne)**

Joanne stated she spoke to Steve Carew (Parks Superintendent). He is willing to take out a number of the dead trees but was concerned about what to do with all the cut trees. She thought about asking the Fire Department about burning them but they are pine trees and very large. Steve also stated he will start mowing the cleared areas. Steve stated if we could remove the debris from under the trees he will be able to mow there as well. There is also one live tree surrounded by dead trees that they should focus on removing the dead trees to save the live one. Joanne mentioned getting the Iarussi neighborhood involved. They could use some help. **Action Item: Laura lives in that neighborhood and will ask around to see if anyone would volunteer to help.**

### **Trail maintenance at Millstone Village (Denise)**

Denise has a map from Bridget and Susy which has an easement on Winthrop Street that crosses the trail. Some of the parts are maintained well but some are not. We need a written agreement so that the maintenance is kept up. Denise stated Bridget is going to find a sample memorandum

of understanding (MOU) that they can work with. **Action Item: Denise will look into this further.**

#### **Approval of Minutes: • November 2, 2021**

*Tina made a motion to approve the November 2, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Laura seconded the motion. All the members were in favor and the meeting minutes were approved.*

#### **Other items that may come before the committee**

Joanne stated there is a community weaving from the Bridges Festival that the Library will be put on display in the big gathering room. Joanne followed up with Michael Boynton (Town Manager) about the parking on easements near the trails. Michael stated Franklin uses a different power company. Joanne also asked Michael about a space for putting in a small tool shed. He will consider it but would like us to suggest a location. Possible locations are the right side of the Adams Street Parking lot or the North Field parking lot. Joanne mentioned she has a bunch of pressure treated wood left over. She asked Jim if a small bridge is needed in some of the wet areas. Jim stated they would have to get approval from Conservation. Joanne stated the bridges are removable so we might just want to put them down.

Denise stated Volunteer Appreciation night is next Monday. Please RSVP.

Tina stated subcommittees need to be posted to the public but two individual members could work on a small project together and this does not have to be posted, as long as it has not been voted on or designated as a subcommittee.

Laura would like to discuss better signage on the trails than what we currently have. There are signs that say Open Space but there are no signs stating dogs must be leashed or please respect the abutters, etc. Tina stated we have been told that the bylaw has to be rewritten first because the trails are on town property. Denise stated that the committee has been trying to get this done for a few years. **Action Item: Laura will reach out to the Select Board about this issue.**

Andrea mentioned a show she saw on Chronicle discussed removing some of the dams because it is supposed to be better for the fish. She has concerns that this could cause a lot of flooding. The flooding could affect existing habitats. Charlie mentioned that he has read that the Sanford Mill Dam may also be holding back deposits from long-ago manufacturing that might negatively impact the river downstream if released. Both the Sanford Mill Dam and the West Medway Dam are privately owned. The combination of these factors might mean that the status quo will remain.

#### **Adjourn**

*Andrea made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Joanne seconded the motion and Jim, Laura, Andrea, Joanne, Charlie, and Denise all stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak