

Committee Members

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



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TOWN OF MEDWAY
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Open Space Committee
Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 7:00 pm
Remote Meeting

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's Orders imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather inside in one place, no in person attendance of members of the public will be permitted at this meeting. Committee members will participate remotely via ZOOM. Meeting access via ZOOM is provided for the opportunity for public participation; information for participating via ZOOM is included at the end of this meeting.

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

Also present: Susy Affleck-Childs

- *Tina called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.*
- **Individual initiatives and committee consultation**

Tina stated there was a concern about the naming of the bridges. There were some different expectations from people and we need to define what the expectations of the deliverables are. Moving forward, we should be more specific about what actions are needed. **Action: After each discussion topic, the minutes should list all action items.**

- **Naming status – “new” boardwalk and footbridges**

Joanne stated they are pretty close to approving all the names. One of them will be named the Volunteer Bridge. One bridge will be dedicated to just Native Americans. Tina suggested she reach out to Donna Rice- Norton as she did a lot of Native American research. **Action: Joanne to confirm the Volunteer Bridge Name and present the names to the OSC for their approval.**

- **MassTrails Grant**

Tina forwarded the final draft to the group. She thinks it is a strong proposal. Joanne stated she liked a lot of it, but the viewing platform seemed kind of large, and she was disappointed that it was not covered. She asked if it could be covered. Charlie stated if we get the grant then we can discuss the specifications.

Charlie stated it might be worthwhile to publicize that we applied for this grant. It speaks very well of the town and the committee. The committee members agreed it would be a good idea. Charlie could put a blurb on one of social media sites. Bruce suggested getting letters of support from the community. **Action:**

Charlie will check with Susy to see if she is ok with it before he moves forward with publicity. Joanne will look into getting grant support letters.

- **Review of Jim's Goal 10 recommendations - "Toward a More Natural Medway"**

Tina and Charlie think it's great and well written. Mike stated it's a great idea and can increase awareness. Joanne stated that on page two, the last two paragraphs repeat a bit. Tina stated if you have any edits, please email them to Jim. **Action: Members should email any comments to Jim. Then Jim will send the complete draft to Tina and she will schedule a meeting with Jim, ConCom, Parks, and DPW.**

- **Lovering parking lot follow-ups:**

- General: Denise stated stone was put on the edges of the bridges.

- **Funding from existing articles – follow-up with Allison (Joanne)**

Tina stated she sent an email to FinCom and they love all the trails but we would need emergency money. Allison stated we have money for that through existing approved CPC articles. Tina will look into rewording the articles so they can be rolled into one article for trail work, bridges, etc. Joanne stated Medway Lumber made a mistake and sent the bill to the DPW. The rest of the supplies were from Home Depot and subtracted from the account. Tina stated we have a theoretical operating budget. **Action: Tina needs to read the article and put together an article for town meeting to broaden the use of the available funds.**

- **Bridget/Susy's discussion on options (Tina)**

Action -Tina will email Bridget and Susy to see about moving forward with a scenic road hearing

- **CPC Chair discussion (Tina)**

Action- Tina will present to the CPC at the March Meeting

- **Adams-to-Lovering Management Plan**

Charlie stated he has everything ready except for the final bridge names.

Denise asked whether question mark in title of the CPA funding column should be there. Charlie confirmed that is meant to be there, as it's a yes/no column.

Charlie will add Adams and Lovering Streets to the map for reference.

Denise asked about the wording of the last sentence in section 2. The first sentence on the next part says there is currently no public parking at this location but people park there all the time and wonders whether we should we change the wording. The committee reviewed how this had been previously discussed in a meeting and the town has decided not to change the status quo. We will leave the current wording.

Joanne stated that the section about clearing the right-of-way says that the utility uses pesticides – is this true, and what about mowing? We will adjust the wording just to mention that the area is cleared without specifying how it's done.

Denise said in the same description it talks about half of the trail from Adams Street to the new boardwalk and from Lovering Street south, but is missing the middlesection of the trail where the cart path bridge is.

Charlie stated this is month 13 of reviewing this draft document, he suggests everyone stop making little changes and get it out there and make changes later.

Tina stated the middle piece is vague. Jim and Joanne can update it.

Actions:

- Denise will send the rest of her edits to Charlie.
- Charlie will update the map, include the edits from these minutes and from Denise's list, then send it to Joanne and Jim.
- Joanne and Jim will add the middle piece and make sure it all flows, written from the perspective of a walk in a single direction (e.g., south to north).
- Denise and Tina will schedule a Land Management Meeting with DPS, Bridget and the Board of Selectmen. Later they will develop a book to give to everyone with the excel spreadsheet and they can add Idyllbrook at a later time.

- **Moving the Amphitheater Fence (Jim)**

Jim stated Steve will move the fence in the spring.

- **Amphitheater Village Street Access (Tina)**

Tina stated this is a difficult traffic area to pull out of and a crosswalk would be good there. Tina would like to put a walking trail with signage on Village Street. Then they could walk it in the summer and figure out if they could use railroad ties to fill it in.

Mike stated we can look at other design options. **Action: Tina will meet with Officer Watson and explain what we are trying to do. If he is in agreement, Tina will go to the Board of Selectmen to see about making this a trail head. Joanne will contact ConCom to confirm that it would be OK to put down crusher run in this area.**

- **Land Management Plan update (Tina)**

Tina drafted it and sent it to Jim but some of the text didn't match up with the trail tasks. **Action: Jim and Tina will firm up the Land Management Plan to be consistent with the Trail Tasks that Jim will discuss with Steve Carew.**

- **Approval of minutes:**

- **December 1, 2020**

Charlie made a motion to accept the December 1, 2020 minutes as submitted, Joanne seconded the motion and Denise, Mike, Jim and Tina all stated aye they were in favor and it was voted to approve.

- **January 5, 2021**

Denise had a question about the wording of "gravel side". Charlie corrected this. She also had a comment about the Amphitheater fence wording Charlie corrected this.

Denise made motion to accept the January 5, 2021 meeting minutes as revised. Mike seconded the motion and Charlie, Joanne, Jim and Tina all stated they were in favor and it was voted to approve.

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

Joanne stated someone did donuts in the Adams meadow and she would like to know if she can she ask DPW to put stones in there to prevent that from happening. **Action: Jim will talk to Steve about this.**

Joanne stated Julie Harrington asked about putting things in her calendar. She would like something about vernal pools etc., would anyone like to host a program? If so, she could be the contact person and forward the information to Julie. Tina asked the group what they thought about giving people a patch or some type of reward if they walked all of the trails. **Action: this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.**

Joanne mentioned they had a great trail club meeting and there are a lot of projects. **Action: Joanne will reach out to Jim about invasives.**

Joanne mentioned the problems with dogs being off leash on trails and fields. The trail club will send a letter to the Board of Selectman but she asked if the Open Space Committee could send a letter as well. Tina does not want to own this and asked if other committee members would like to get involved. Charlie stated if the trail club is getting the complaints then they should be the ones to write the letter. Charlie stated we should find out if the bylaw really states dogs are not allowed on the trails. If so, he is in favor of putting dogs must be leashed signs on the trails. **Action: Joanne will confirm with Animal Control what the bylaw is.**

Adjourn

Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Denise seconded the motion and Denise, Joanne, Mike, Jim, Tina and Bruce all stated aye they were in favor and it was voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak