

## Committee Members

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



# TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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**April 18, 2022 - 7:00 PM  
Remote Meeting**

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, an act which extends certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency, and under which public bodies retain the option of holding open meetings and hearings remotely until July 15, 2022, and in accordance with the Medway Select Board's remote participation policy as amended at its July 2, 2021, meeting, Open Space Committee members will be participating remotely. Access via Zoom is provided for public participation.

Denise called this special meeting to order at 7:04 PM to discuss the master plan phase 3 strategy ideas. These comments will be reported to the Master Plan committee.

### **Master Plan Phase 3**

#### **Section VI Open Space**

N. Strategic acquisition – all agreed this was high priority, rated as a 5

O. Natural Resource Protection Zoning – all present agreed this was a priority 5 for new subdivisions. Tina asked how this would affect the 40B's

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P. Tree Canopy – There was a lot of discussion on this one. Rated as a 3.

There is not enough detail to make an informed decision. There would need to be very clear guidelines and there are concerns about how this would be handled on various lot sizes. What if someone wanted to cut down a tree near the edge of a lot for a garden? Too many questions and not the highest priority but we agreed it was worth investigating further. We all agree trees are good and worth saving or replacing with others if they need to be removed.

Q. Dam Removal – Not a high priority to do but we agreed a study would be a high priority over the next master plan cycle, looking at all dams in town and decide which to remove.

Concerns noted were storm water studies, what would happen to the pond at Choate if the dam was removed, who owns the dam at Sanford Mill? What is under these dams, concerns about hazardous materials. Hate to lose the beautiful views provided by the falls. What are the real benefits to the ecosystem?

R. Create Edible Forest – we rated this as a priority 1.

Was this intended for food for habitat? Seems there are many much more important things to worry about.

## **Section 1X Farming**

Y. Business Potential – we all liked this idea and rated it as a 4.

Will give the farms more flexibility to expand business to make them more profitable. Would need some guidelines on what is allowed.

Z. Farmer's market Expansion – Rated as a 3 from the Open Space perspective.

We would support expansion of the market. Possible alternate locations might be Oakland Park or maybe the Adams Meadow. The town should be willing to help with education and publicity. Not clear if more help is needed for organization.

AA. Community Farm - We rated this as a 4.

We all want to keep the farm in town but are unclear what role we play as they are a private 501C that leases land from the town.

The OSC would be willing to collaborate with the farm to get groups out there to use the trail and in the process see the farm. We could help with publicity.

## **Adjourn**

*Denise made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Joanne seconded the motion and Tina, Joanne, Jim, Andrea, Tara and Denise all stated they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.*

Minutes submitted by Denise Legee