

## 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

Medway Town Hall  
155 Village Street  
Medway, MA 02053  
Telephone (508) 321-4890  
Email: [openspacecommittee@townofmedway.org](mailto:openspacecommittee@townofmedway.org)  
[www.townofmedway.org](http://www.townofmedway.org)

**August 2, 2022 – 7:00 PM**  
**Medway Senior Center**

| 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         | x          | x arrived 7:37  |

*Denise called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.*

- Voting for officers

Denise stated that she and Tina would both like to stay as Co-Chairs for another one-year term if there were no objections. Charlie stated he would like to stay as Clerk for another one-year term if there were no objections. Denise asked the other members if anyone else was interested in the positions. There was no interest and no objections.

***Joanne made a motion that Denise and Tina will remain as Co-Chairs and Charlie will remain as Clerk for the next one-year term. Laura seconded the motion. All the members stated they were in favor and the motion passed.***

- Discussion on the Master Plan draft – Are there any deal breakers?

Denise stated she did not like the format of the draft Master Plan. She stated there must be a better version fit for online viewing.

Jim stated he had some concerns about Goal # 15 as it does not even hint at how this will be addressed. Jim noted that Goal # 3 conflicts with Strategy A. Jim asked why they need a tree inventory. Denise stated this would establish a baseline. Jim stated that Goal 17, second strategy is to improve the wetland and restoration areas but he is not sure what improvements are needed. Jim mentioned the wording of “planting pollinators” should be corrected to “planting native plants that attract pollinators”. Jim was surprised that in the restoration & maintenance of habitat sections there was no mention of reducing invasives. Jim stated the easiest and most effective strategy to keep invasive species out is to reduce the dominance of the invasive species.

Tara mentioned that they used an old picture of Choate Park in Goal 17 and she thinks they should use an updated picture.

Joanne stated she has some thoughts about the Master Plan and she will send to them Denise in an email.

### **Quick Status Updates**

- Denise

#### Announcements and upcoming meetings

Denise stated she sent the committee members an email about the Mass Trails conference in Fitchburg on Saturday, November 12, 2022. Denise thinks this is a good event but would like to see the agenda first. When the agenda comes out, she will send it out to everyone, and they can let her know if they would like to attend.

#### Follow-up on Deerfield open space property boundary

Denise stated she spoke to Susy Affleck- Childs, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator about this area. Denise reported that Susy said this area was never surveyed and there are no records about it.

Action: Denise will reach out to the person whose son built the existing trail around the pond (name unknown) that lives on Deerfield Road to see if they know anything about the property boundary.

- Laura

Laura stated she has no new information to report at this time.

- Charlie

Charlie stated he does not have an update at this time.

- Jim

#### Williamsburg Way Open Space

Interested members of the committee will plan a site walk of the area before the next meeting so they can discuss it at the September meeting.

Action: Denise and Jim will coordinate a date and time for the site walk.

#### Town-wide treatment of invasives

Jim stated that since the last meeting, there has been 103 hours of volunteer time, Trail Club, and others, spent on managing the invasives. Jim reported that there have been two classes since the last meeting. Jim and Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent held a class for town residents, and he held a second class for Master Gardeners at the Community Farm. Jim stated he is planning another class for September.

- Mike

#### Ohnemus DPW discussions re: parking lot

Mike stated he left a voice message for Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent, stating he would like to have a site walk with her. Mike has not heard back from her yet. Mike suggested having a monthly meeting with Bridget because he has trouble getting in touch with her. Mike would also like to talk to Bridget about the parking lot and storm water issues. Mike would also like to look into installing an Open Space sign for pedestrians to increase awareness about the trail and river access. Mike stated he spoke to Sean Harrington, Deputy Director of the DPW and he was on board with installing a sign as long as it did not impede the sight line.

Denise stated she has the Open Space signs but needs the 4 x 4 pressure treated posts. She will look into the price of those. Mike stated he spoke with Sergeant Watson at Medway Pride Day and also sent him an email to keep him in the loop and to get his feedback. Charlie noted that Sergeant Watson has been promoted to Lieutenant as of July.

Action: Denise will reach out to Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent to see if they can schedule a brief monthly meeting with her or another member of the OSC. Denise will also look into the price of the 4 x 4 pressure treated posts.

#### Amphitheater Alternate Village Street Access (continue discussions with condo owners)

Mike stated he does not have an update at this time.

#### Rail Trail east of Oakland (parking, water station proximity)

Mike stated that Sean Harrington, Deputy Director of the DPW told him the DPW and the Water Commission are not ready to explore this topic right now. Mike reported that the DPW are building a new water treatment plant and will probably need to come up with a new water management plan. Mike has been researching how public access to the aqua ducts has changed since the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Mike stated dogs on the trail could possibly contaminate the water supply. Charlie stated there are other wild animals out there doing the same thing on the trails.

Denise stated that we need to figure out what we are going to do with the part of the trail from the Senior Center to Rail Bed first. Then as we make progress, we can look at this section.

Action: Mike will continue to research how other towns handle public access on trails near a water supply. He will bring these models to Sean.

- Tina (not in attendance but E-mailed the OSC prior to the meeting)

#### Trail from Senior Center to Rail Bed (private parcel permissions)

Tina is still working on getting in touch with the owners of the parcels.

### The Willows Trails (schedule walk with Bridget)

Denise stated she walked this trail with Tina and Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent and they found the trail was very overgrown. Bridget was concerned about this and she is going to talk to the Willows about taking care of that stretch of the trail.

### Water Trail (talk with Bridget about getting river cleared)

Denise reported that Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent stated her intern took notes but he never gave the notes to her, so now we have to start again.

- Joanne

### Follow-up with Town Manager about advertising and promoting trails

Joanne stated she spoke with Michael Boynton, Town Manager about this and she would also like to follow up with the Police Chief. Joanne stated she also spoke to Glenn Trindade, Select Board Member about funding for the Bridges Festival. Joanne asked if they could use Open Space or Town funds for this with the justification that it would make the trails safer. Glenn stated he was in support of this idea and also suggested getting funding from the Lions Club as well.

Joanne stated they will need funds for music for the Bridges Festival this year. Joanne estimated they may need about \$3,000 in total, about \$1500 from Open Space funds. Joanne stated we would have to vote on that but there is not time before the next meeting. They may need to have an emergency meeting or a zoom meeting just to vote on that.

Action: Denise will ask Allison Potter, Assistant Town Manager about the guidelines for the funding and Charlie will check with Susy Affleck-Childs about the procedure for scheduling a quick Zoom meeting before our September meeting..

Joanne stated she spoke to the Medway Police about seeing dogs off leash near Adams Meadow and Idylbrook fields. Glenn Trindade, Select Board Member told Joanne he is working on the bylaw regarding dogs on the trail.

### Trail maintenance/mowing schedule

Joanne stated she spoke to Michael Boynton, Town Manager about the maintenance of the trails. Joanne stated some areas are not being maintained as well as usual because Steve Carew, DPW Parks Superintendent was injured and can't get to all the areas. Joanne is concerned because if the trails don't get trimmed and weeded then people won't walk on them and poison ivy takes over. Joanne stated she would like to meet with Michael Boynton and Peter Pelletier, Director of Public Works and show them the organized list of maintenance needs that they created. The committee members stated they were ok with Joanne speaking to Michael and Peter about this.

Action: Joanne will speak to Michael Boynton, Town Manager and Peter Pelletier, Director of Public Works about the need for trail maintenance.

Jim mentioned that a few years ago there was a trial program that involved him doing maintenance work as part of the tax write-off program for retirees. We might want to look into this type of program again.

Jim stated the water is really low now in the Charles River, so it would be a good time to remove the trees blocking the canoe access.

#### Brochure update status

Charlie stated he does not have an update at this time.

#### Ideas for the town to increase transparency regarding open space

Laura stated she has some information to share with everyone. She stated that the Medway Trail Club is their own entity which she thinks is confusing and asked who if anyone, governs it. The Trail Club members are doing volunteer work and activities on Open Space and Conservation land and Laura feels that the Open Space Committee should be concerned about this and should look into this.

Joanne stated that the Trail Club is preparing a clear list of guidelines that they have been and will continue to work under (how wide to keep the trails, how to manage invasives, removal of cuttings etc..) to make this more transparent. Charlie suggested that the Trail Club have an open meeting for all members of the Trail Club to discuss.

Action: Denise will add an item to next month's agenda about how this committee can interact with any entity in keeping with what we want on Medway's trails.

Laura stated she felt there was some animosity at the last meeting. She stated that was not her intent and she doesn't think groups are making mistakes on purpose.

Joanne stated she feels that they don't make many mistakes at all, that they work very conscientiously, and that the Trail Club volunteers have rescued and preserve many acres of town land. Laura stated that Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent has stated many times that things have been done wrong on the area behind her house. Joanne stated the Trail Club has not been near her property in a long time except for walking past it to get to other areas of the trail network. It was suggested that the Trail Club or anyone else working on the trails abutting wetlands might want to talk to Bridget for guidance. Joanne stated that the Trail Club has been working in the wetlands under guidelines previously agreed upon, but that we could check to see if/why Bridget has said otherwise.

Mike asked Joanne about the volunteer application they were proposing awhile back. The application would state the work the person or group was proposing to do, and list the groups or committees that should review the application. Joanne clarified that the form was intended for new projects that volunteers wanted to work on and would be a way for all groups to be aware of what was going on.

Action: Joanne will follow up with Allison Potter, Assistant Town Manager about this form.

- Approval of Minutes: June 7, 2022

***Laura made a motion to approve the June 7, 2022 meeting minutes as distributed. Tara seconded the motion. All members said they were in favor and the motion passed.***

- Other items that may come before the committee

Discussion about minutes

Charlie stated he will no longer be consolidating comments minutes as it is too time consuming for him. Charlie stated it has frequently taken him multiple hours each month. He originally started getting involved with the minutes at the request of Susy Affleck-Childs, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator, because they had not been being converted to PDF and posted on the town's website. Tracy stated the reason why it takes so long to review the minutes is because several members like to change the wording of each sentence the way they would like it worded. Tracy asked that when committee members review the minutes, that they only correct factual, spelling, and grammatical errors. If a comment or suggestion does not change the meaning of the sentence, then it is not a correction but a preference in writing style and does not need to be changed. Charlie and Denise brought up the guidance we got from the town several years ago that the minutes don't need to be as detailed.

Action: Moving forward, Tracy will try to make the minutes less detailed, use last names/titles, and send the draft minutes to Denise and Tina for review.

Next meeting will be September 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm.

- Adjourn

***Joanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm. Charlie seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak