

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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August 25, 2022 – 7:00 PM
Zoom 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	x	x

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

- Vote on using Trail funds for the Bridges Festival**

Joanne provided background. The Bridges Festival was first held in 2021. This year's is scheduled for September 24th. It will take place on the trail that runs from Adams Street to Lovering Street. The goal is to attract people and increase awareness and familiarity with the trails. While the town does a very good job reaching out to people on Facebook, other measures are needed to reach those who don't use Facebook.

There will be activities scheduled at each bridge. At the middle of the trail, there will be musical entertainment and a booth from the Medway Trail Club.

The organizers hope the event can let more people know about Medway's trail system and increase foot traffic (which increases safety). There was positive feedback from last year's event.

The proposed funding would help pay for two things:

- Signs: Two large banners and a number of plastic yard signs. The committee discussed two possible providers and the initial cost quotes from each. The costs could be between \$766 and \$1167. This year's signs would be plastic and reusable in the future, with a provision for the date to be changed. (Last year's signs were hand-made and couldn't be reused.)
- Entertainment: \$675 for musicians.

Denise suggested that, due to the range of prices, the committee vote whether to authorize \$1500 dollars, and the money could be divided as needed.

Denise asked committee members for their thoughts.

- Tina said that she thought the proposed use of the funding stretched the definition of how the funds were intended to be used.
- Denise said she believes the event helps recruit volunteers, which is how progress is made on expanding and maintaining the trail system.
- Joanne listed a number of other positive outcomes expected from the event.
- Charlie said he thought it wasn't a good use of taxpayer funds as well as stretching the intent for the funds. He said that, after thinking about it following the August 2nd meeting, he could support \$750 for publicity but no funding for entertainment.
- Tara asked for clarification as to the location of the music and how many people stopped to listen. Joanne replied it would be at the meadow near the Dave Hoag Boardwalk. People tend to stop for a few minutes, then focus on exploring the rest of the trail.
- Andrea said she didn't have any comments.
- Jim asked about process: what oversight is there for the spending of these funds. Denise replied that larger purchases are usually done via a town-issued purchase order and the smaller purchases are done by reimbursing the person buying via a receipt. The town retains oversight and control.
- Laura commented about her preference for one of the printing providers.

After the discussion concluded, Joanne moved, and Laura seconded, that the Open Space Committee approve the use of \$1500 to support the Bridges Festival. This funding would come from the funding under the omnibus town budget and not from CPA funds.

The following members voted in favor: Denise, Andrea, Laura, Tara, Jim, and Joanne.

The following members voted against: Tina, Charlie.

The motion passed on a 6-2 vote.

- **Adjourn**

Charlie moved, and Laura seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The following members voted to adjourn: Tina, Denise, Charlie, Andrea, Laura, Tara, Jim, and Joanne. No members voted against. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Charlie Ross, Clerk