

Committee Members

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



TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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**Tuesday, January 4, 2022
Zoom Meeting**

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

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Legislature's June 16, 2021 enactment of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, an act extending certain Covid-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency, under which public bodies retain the option of holding open meetings and hearings remotely until April 1, 2022, and in accordance with the Medway Select Board's remote participation policy as amended at their July 2, 2021 meeting, Open Space Committee members will participate remotely for this meeting. Access via Zoom is provided for public participation for those portions of the meeting open to the public.

Denise called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Medway Master Plan Task Force update (Denise)

Denise stated there were a bunch of changes that the Task Force wanted to make to the Master Plan regarding the vision and goals. Next Monday, the Master Plan Committee will have a joint meeting with PEDB and the Select Board. They are slightly changing the focus areas to be: Responsible and Strategic Growth; Infrastructure to Support Growth; Supportive Community; and Conservation, Stewardship, and Resilience. They will be doing Zoom focus groups over the next couple of months. **Action Item: Denise will send everyone an email that has the four groups listed.**

Brochure Update of Map (Charlie)

Charlie met with Fran Hutton Lee, GIS Coordinator, in December and talked about options. The original map was done by a former committee member. Charlie updated this map in 2018 and shared it on the screen. The labeled sites are similar to how they were in the brochure. Charlie pointed out some of the labeled areas such as Choate Park, Idylbrook, Cassidy, McGovern, Bresnahan's Landing, and the Amphitheater. Charlie added Neelon Lane and the trail behind the fire station in the 2018 update.

The committee discussed the Williamsburg Way OSRD. Charlie said that its status (privately owned or transferred to the town) was inconsistent on the town's website. Jim said that it had been transferred to the town and has a copy of the deed. Jim stated Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent, is working with the condo association in keeping up the maintenance there.

Two other properties that have privately-owned land with guaranteed access are the Millstone Village and Willows/Salmon ARCPUDs. Charlie feels they should be added to the map as well. Other members agreed and suggested they be listed in another color so they can be differentiated.

Denise wondered if we should show public properties that don't have facilities but are used by the public. Charlie was concerned that we not make the map too cluttered. Mike stated the trail along the rail bed east of Oakland Street is good to go and that could be put on the map. This would help improve momentum for the project and make it more visible. The other property the committee agreed to add was the VFW. **Action: Charlie will continue to work on updating the map.**

Layout/verbiage (Laura)

Laura stated she is about halfway through writing up all the places on the map. She thinks there are a lot of words that can be cut out. She would like to standardize the verbiage by what type of place it is, if there is parking, how long the trails are, etc.... Charlie explained how he does captures for the maps with a free app. While capturing the full route is a bit more complex, it's very easy to just get the trail length. **Action: Charlie will send the app info to Laura and Denise.**

When Laura finishes with her edits, she stated she will send it out to the committee members. **Action: Laura will finish this up and send to the committee members.**

Trail Safety • Trail Signage Follow-Up (Laura)

Denise stated Susy Affleck Childs, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator, sent out an email about trail safety and concerns regarding the recent attack at Middlesex Fells. There is an upcoming Zoom meeting on January 19th being facilitated by the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC) on how to address safety and concerns of trail users. There have been some local incidents: Charlie mentioned someone was bitten by a dog recently on a Holliston trail, and Andrea stated a girl was recently attacked by a dog on a Franklin trail. Jim stated a person could use their phone to call for help but landmarks are needed to identify where they are. Joanne stated the naming of the bridges was intended to help with that.

Action: Joanne will ask the Police and Fire Chiefs about safety on the trails.

Action: Laura will continue to work on the verbiage regarding general rules of the trails.

Town-wide treatment of invasives – policy implementation (Jim)

Jim has written a draft policy on the management of invasive plants on town properties. He brought it to the Conservation Commission and they added a few things. He brought it to the Parks Department and they did not have anything to add but stated they would support it. He also brought it to Peter Pelletier, DPW Director, who was all for it. Jim is still waiting for a few

sentences from him as well as feedback from Susy. One suggestion was to add a list of native species and plants for people to choose from.

The education piece is very important and classes over the summer would be beneficial. We need to figure out how to measure the progress.

Action: Jim will set up meetings with DPW and the Conservation Commission and let Tina know once they are scheduled.

Andrea mentioned a course to be offered on February 16th and beyond. It will be recorded and also virtually presented until the end of February. The course is on treatment of invasives and noninvasives and is hosted by both Tower Hill Botanic Garden and the Berkshire Botanical Gardens. The speaker is the Director of Horticulture at Tower Hill, and it's part of an ecological speakers series. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers and addresses the very topics Jim was interested in seeing applied, as well as the effect of climate change on invasives and noninvasives.

Action: Andrea will send the information to Denise for distribution.

Mountain Bike Trails (Denise)

Denise emailed Susy to let her know we did discuss this and had some issues about safety and that we would not want to lead the project. Susy is not sure what the next step should be. **Action: Denise will follow up again with Susy.**

Water Trail (Tina)

Tina and Denise were going to walk the area with Bridget. This has not been done yet.

Open Space Signs (Denise)

- **Ohnemus** - Denise stated there is not a sign at Ohnemus. She thought maybe we should use our last unused sign and put it there. We need to decide where to put the sign, maybe close to the street to draw people in. **Action: Mike will research who owns the land and talk to Peter at DPW about the possibility of putting in a gravel parking lot.**
- **New order of signs** - There are no Open Space signs currently on order. Deerfield Street needs a sign, and there are probably other places as well. Denise asked if anyone has ideas where Open Space signs are needed to let her know.

The Willows Trails (Tina and Denise) - Not done yet. **Action: Tina to schedule a walk with Bridget.**

Trail from Senior Center to Rail Bed (Tina) – This will be discussed at the next meeting when Tina is in attendance. Mike asked if we should work with what we have now and have DPW put some gravel down where the trail begins. **Action: Mike will talk with Peter at the DPW about the concern of the trail being close to the water pump station.**

Amphitheater Village Street Access - Alternate Approach (Mike)

Mike stated he contacted one of the condo owners and left a message but he has not heard back yet. He contacted the other owner who replied that he appreciates all the trails and can think of a few access points, one near the church, a trail from Village Street and a bridge across the Charles to Franklin. Mike will try to meet with him in person and walk the hillside property.

History of trolley crossing bridge at the Willows (Andrea)

Andrea went to the Franklin Library. She found that there was an increase in the fares from 5-7 cents to go from Franklin to Medway. There was also a Holliston Trolley that went into Medway a little bit. Holliston was very active and had a trolley every 45 minutes. **Action: Andrea will send a one-page synopsis to Denise for distribution to the full committee.**

Form for coordination of scout and volunteer projects (Joanne)

Joanne stated she has not completed this yet as she still needs to talk to the Michael Boynton, Town Manager.

Meadow south of Iarussi Way – Tree removal help (Laura)

Laura spoke to about ten of the fifteen families that live on Iarussi Way. Most of the responses were not positive. There is a lot of distrust about the trail because what they were told about the trail is not what happened with the trail. They feel there were a lot of changes with the trail that were not originally planned.

Trail maintenance at Millstone Village (Denise)

Denise asked Bridget to mark up the map so she knows exactly which trails have to be maintained by the town and which ones by Millstone. She is still waiting to get this info from Bridget.

Approval of Minutes: December 7, 2021

Charlie made a motion to approve the December 7, 2021 meeting minutes as amended. Joanne seconded the motion and Charlie, Jim, Laura, Joanne, Mike, Andrea, and Denise all stated they were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Other items that may come before the committee

- **Realtor grants:** Joanne mentioned she spoke to Paul Yorkis, local realtor, about possible grants starting at \$1500 from the National Realtors Association. She asked if committee members had any ideas for projects? Andrea suggested money for more signs, but Joanne stated she does not want to list things that may be covered under the towns' budget. Other suggestions included plantings, maybe a small covered workstation at McGovern, a bench near the boardwalk to watch birds, a natural playground with boulders and stumps instead of metal structures, and an outdoor interactive instrument at the harmony-themed Volunteer Bridge. Joanne asked the committee members to send any other suggestions to her by this Friday. Action: Joanne will create a list of all ideas and send it to Paul.
- **How to meet in February:** Charlie asked about having February's meeting by Zoom. The committee members agreed so the February meeting will be by Zoom.

Adjourn

Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Laura seconded the motion and Jim, Laura, Andrea, Joanne, Mike, Charlie, and Denise all stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak